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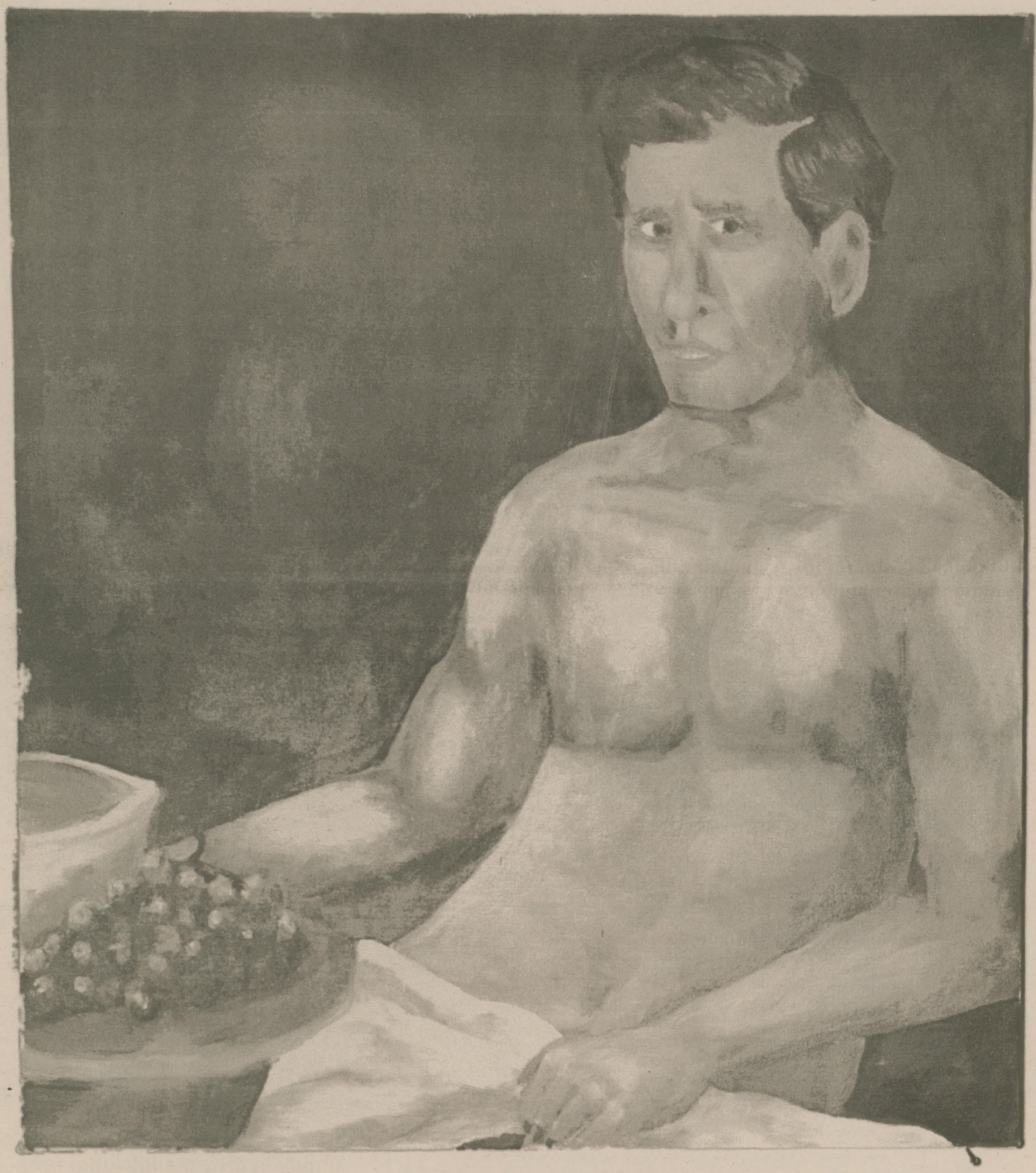

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Students Liberal members without signatures or fees

BY PATRICK WHITE AND BRYNA HALLAM

Two people who don't support the federal Liberal party, one a UVic student, the other a UVic grad, have shown up on party membership lists alongside a dead dog and duplicate names.

Jeremy Hewitt, a UVic political science student, was signed up for a convention by Ivan Watson, former president of the UVic Young Liberals. "I personally had shown little interest," said Hewitt. "I especially did not want to become a card-carrying member of the party. The next thing I knew, I was a member," said Hewitt.

"It appeared as if it was simply a ploy to get names on some sort of registry."

A graduate student in UVic's school of public administration received similar party solicitations without signing up for the party. He doesn't want to be named because he plans to find a job with the federal government once he finishes classes.

"I went to New York with a bunch of Martinites and they wanted me to attend a Liberal function at the Empress when we got back," he said. "There was promise of drink and such. I never actually went, but a month later I was a member. I never paid and I never signed anything."

Both men were approached by Ivan Watson, former president of the UVic Young Liberals and former legislative assistant to Victoria-Hillside MLA Sheila Orr, regarding memberships, and they feel he was responsible for signing them up.

Mike Witherly, Chief of Staff with the B.C. chapter of the federal Liberals, said membership irregularities were inevitable due to the huge growth the party underwent leading up to November's federal Liberal convention where Paul Martin was declared leader.

"We had to process 20,000 applications in two weeks. There's going to be errors and we are doing our best to fix them."

Witherly said that applicants must sign an application form and send in a fee of $10. "The party only sends out a membership card when we receive a signed form and a fee."

That leaves open the question of how signatures belonging to those not interested in becoming members appeared on application forms. Witherly chalked all errors up to the huge growth generated by the Martin leadership campaign.

Liberal party memberships in B.C. grew from 4,000 to 37,000 in the 18 months leading up to the November federal Liberal convention. Allegations have swirled about membership irregularities since raids on the legislature late last year implicated a number of federal party fundraisers.

PROVIDED PHOTO

Paul Martin's federal membership growth is fishy according to some so-called signees.

TAs and university go back to the table

NIC HUME PHOTO

CUPE 4163's day of action included stopping traffic to hand out flyers about a possible strike.

BY BRYNA HALLAM

If all goes well, UVic TAs will not picket on campus anytime soon. CUPE 4163 and the university have started another round of bargaining.

Negotiations started up again Monday after mediator Grant McArthur asked both sides to continue where they had left off Dec. 29. Talks were scheduled to continue through Wednesday, Jan. 14.

The decision to return to mediation was made late Friday night after a day of job action by the union.

Union members spent Friday on information pickets handing out leaflets across campus. In addition, the union is "working to rule." Work to rule means that the union is following their contracts exactly and will not perform any duties not specified in their contracts. They also will not work any overtime.

During negotiations, the union will continue its work-to-rule campaign, but will not picket or leaflet the school. The university has stated it will remain open while the parties try to find a settlement at the bargaining table.

The members of CUPE 4163, which includes teaching assistants, language instructors and cultural assistants, have been without a contract since August 2003. Bargaining broke down Dec. 29 when the mediator bowed out.

The following week, the union requested the university to enter binding arbitration with them. The results of arbitration would have been decided by a third party and would be binding for each side, regardless of their opinion about the outcome. The university refused, instead requesting a return to mediation.

At that point, the union decided to serve 72-hour strike notice. On Friday, Jan. 9, they began job action in the form of information pickets and a work-to-rule campaign.

Now that bargaining has resumed, both sides are hopeful a resolution will be reached.

"We are working hard to try and get this done," said Sherwin Arnott, chair of CUPE 4163's bargaining team.

Failure to reach an agreement could mean escalating job action by the union. An overwhelming 92 per cent of its members voted in favor of job action in early December. If talks fall through, the union will need to hold another vote to determine what course to take.

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A Service of the UVic Students' Society

Students withhold tuition fees

Hundreds of students join 'tuition boycott' in effort to stop fee hikes

BY STEPHEN HUI (CUP)

Students at two of British Columbia's largest universities plan to withhold their fees in a protest they hope will ward off a third year of tuition hikes.

About 2,000 students participated in a so-called tuition boycott at Simon Fraser University last semester. Now, hundreds of students at the University of Victoria have pledged to postpone paying their fees this semester, according this school's student union.

"We're expecting the tuition boycott to be a wake up call for the university and the government," said Jude Coates, chair of the UVic Students' Society.

Students who don't pay their fees by the end of January will be billed a two per cent interest charge every month until they pay their tuition. They also risk losing access to some university services.

Boycott participants are demanding that the federal and provincial governments increase funding to post-secondary education. They also want the province to begin reducing tuition fees.

The student union hopes the boycott will raise public awareness of the impact of high fees on access to education.

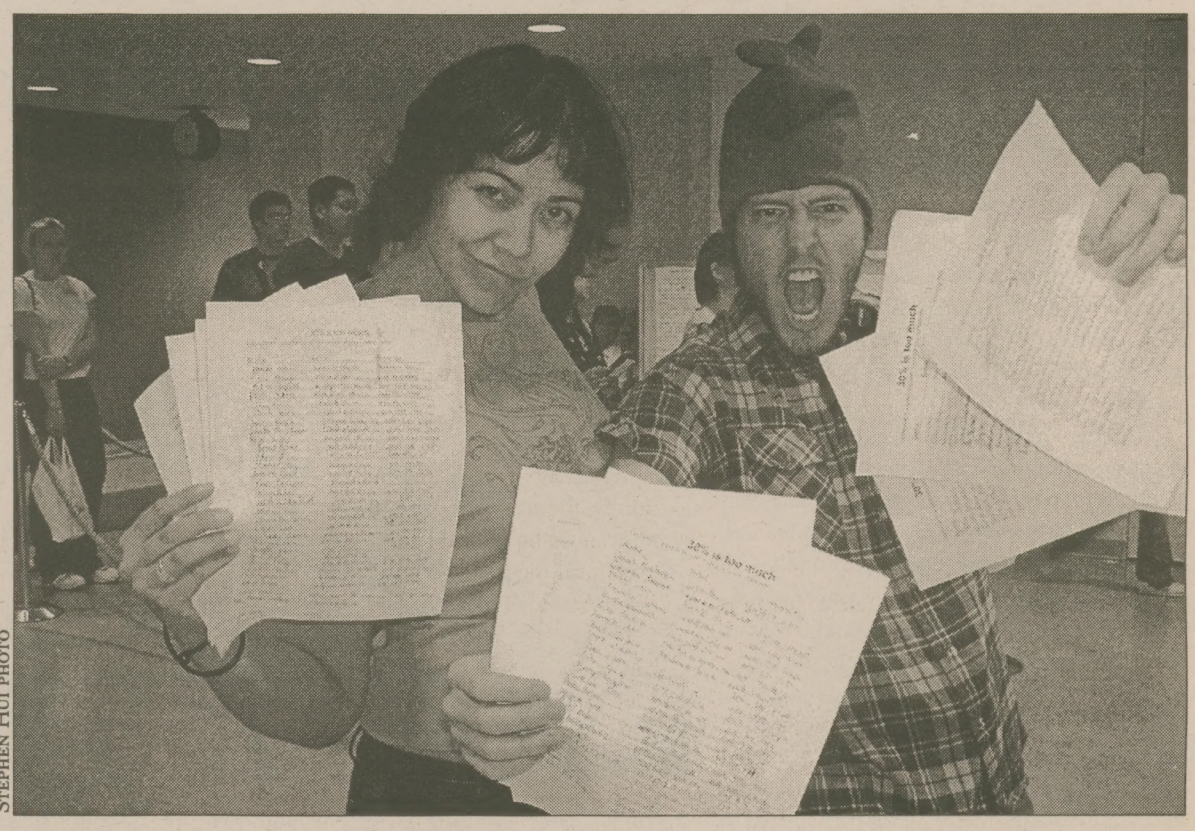
"We think that that greater voice can have a significant impact in perhaps embarrassing the government into reinstating a more progressive funding formula for the institution," Coates said.

UVic students saw their tuition rise by 69 per cent over the past two years.

After two years of 30 per cent fee hikes, students at SFU are bracing for a 20 to 35 per cent tuition increase this year.

Despite the uphill battle, Geordie Dent, an executive member of the Simon Fraser Student Society, maintains that their tuition boycott–now entering its second semester–has been a success.

"I think we got their attention," Dent said. "I think we made them respond to the public, and made them have to go through some financial difficulties."



STEPHEN HUI PHOTO

Student union directors flaunt the signatures they collected in support of a tuition boycott at Simon Fraser University last semester.

Although SFU student representatives were unable to get financial amnesty for boycott participants, they scored a significant victory when the university's senate approved a resolution calling for money gained from interest charges on late tuition payments be directed to bursaries. That plan must receive the support of SFU's board of governors if it is to be implemented.

The student union at the University of B.C. has decided not to pursue a tuition boycott. Rather, it is employing what Sam Saini, Alma Mater Society vice president, calls a research-based approach to tuition fees.

"We're more concerned with where tuition dollars are going," Saini said.

Tuition has increased by 56 per cent at UBC over the past two years. The UBC student union is opposed to large tuition hikes, as well as any fee increases that don't correspond to a significant improvement in the quality of education.

"We always do a benchmark and efficiency analysis on everything the university does with tuition," Saini said.

Students at the University of Northern B.C. will also not be carrying out a tuition boycott.

But Tamara Sweet, an executive member of the Northern Undergraduate Student Society, said they are planning events to coincide with a national day of student action on Feb. 4. That day will see students from around the province and across the country join rallies to demand that post-secondary education be made affordable to all.

According to Statistics Canada, B.C. recorded the country's largest increase in average undergraduate fees for the second consecutive year in 2003–2004.

Administrators at post-secondary institutions argue that tuition hikes were required to balance their books, maintain services, and preserve the quality of education. They claim that expanded financial aid and campus employment programs will safeguard access to education.

Suspended Felicita's manager escorted off campus

BY FORD WALKER

Campus Security was called to the Student Union Building (SUB) Dec. 11, at 6:30 p.m. to remove Felicita's manager David Tillson from the premises. Tillson had just returned to work in the belief that he had finished serving out a three-day suspension, but Campus Security had been instructed to escort him off the premises.

Hunter McDonald, director of Campus Security, said, "We were called to assist the UVSS with a matter, with which we assisted."

Rob Easton, the Felicita's supervisor working at the time, said Tillson had come in to do some paper work. When he tried to enter his usual security codes, he found they had been changed. Campus Security arrived shortly thereafter and informed him that he must leave the premises.

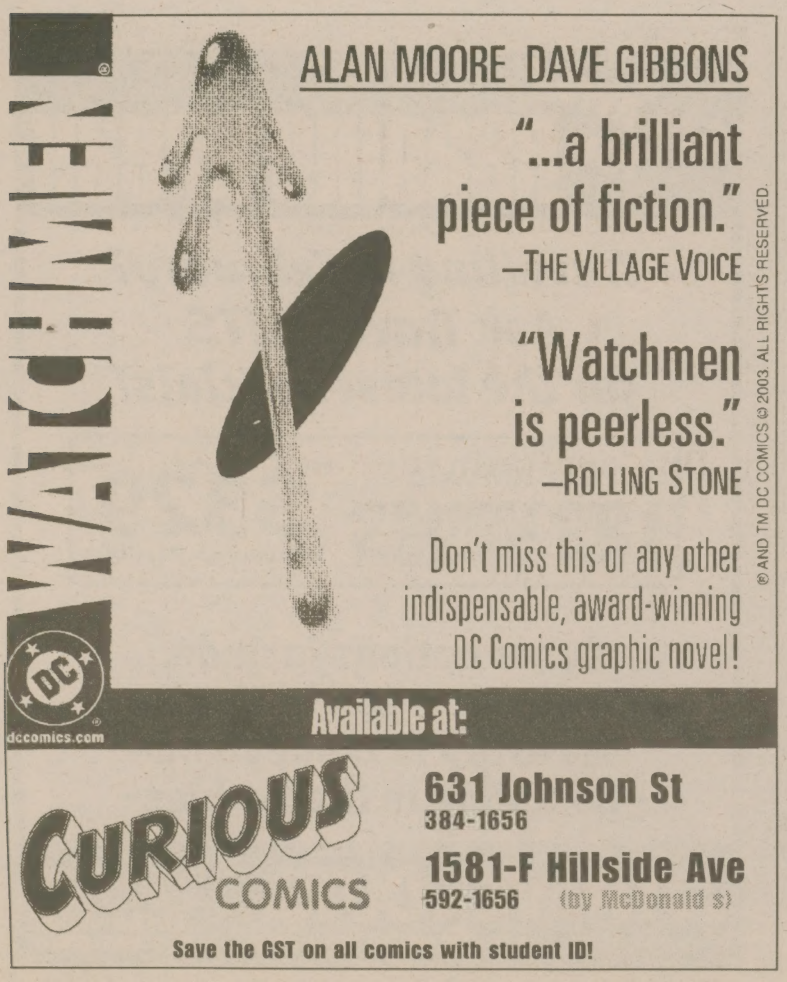
"And I was shocked" said Easton. "It was very demeaning to see him taken away from his workplace while he was helping us prepare for a busy night."

Tillson was suspended because of inappropriate use of cab chits.

Assuming that his suspension began on Dec. 8, Tillson returned to work on Dec. 11. However, management intended his suspension to begin on the following day, and so continue until the 11th.

Dale Robertson, Business Operations Manager of the SUB and Tillson's supervisor, said he was unable to comment on personnel matters.

Tillson was also unavailable to comment because he feared it might jeopardize his job, though he said he wished he could. He has since resumed work as normal.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Study slows sales of farmed salmon

by Patrick White

At the Safeway on Foul Bay Road, stacks of farmed Atlantic salmon fillets are beginning to pile up in the fish cooler. Shoppers pore over them, looking for the redder flesh of wild salmon.

Consumers have chilled to the idea of noshing on farmed Atlantic salmon since a well-publicized report in the journal *Science* that was published last week, which recommended that B.C. consumers limit their consumption of farmed Atlantic salmon to one meal per month.

The study, based on tests of over 700 salmon purchased from 40 locations around the world, looked at the levels of 14 chlorinated industrial pollutants in farmed Atlantic salmon. It found that farmed fish contained up to 10 times the amount of toxins as wild salmon. Researchers at several American universities participated in the study.

Jane Neale, a salmon consumer for more than 50 years, said while perusing the seafood cooler at the Foul Bay Safeway that the study has put her off farmed salmon entirely. "I don't want these types of things in my body. I have my young grandchildren over quite often. I don't want to expose them to anything that might damage their health," she said.

Spencer Evans, general manager of Creative Salmon, a salmon farm company based in Tofino, isn't worried about the study's impact on his business. "I really don't think this will affect anything in the long run. It's a direct attempt at fear-mongering. I believe that a number of environmental groups are behind it," said Evans.

Nic Hume photo

Farmed salmon is sitting on shelves and going on discount since a recent study warned of high toxins.

The study has been criticized by the salmon farming industry for aligning consumption recommendations with American Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards rather than by those set by the Health Canada, the group that actually regulates food standards in Canada.

"There's nothing new here," said Evans. "It's a clear attack on salmon farming. They acknowledge in the study that toxin levels in farmed salmon are acceptable by the FDA [American Food and Drug Administration] and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency."

Otto Langer, Director of Marine Conservation for the David Suzuki Foundation, said EPA guidelines are actually more up-to-date than those used by Health Canada and the FDA. "I would say those two agencies' numbers are almost 25 years old, and they should be reviewed. When they were created we couldn't even detect a lot of these toxins. I'm amazed that these food protection agencies would pretend that there is no health issue there. A number of prominent doctors in the U.S. have recently been pressuring the FDA to change the standards there."

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency disputed the findings as soon as they came out, saying that there is no need for tighter restrictions.

Regardless of the actual health risks of farmed salmon, if any, public perception has slowly turned against farmed salmon in the last two years and the *Science* study won't help. FAS Seafood, a new retailer selling seafood from 11 local boats, has been swamped with customers since opening a few months ago. "We're in the process of expanding right now," said Diane Barron at FAS. "We're booming. There's a huge demand in Victoria, Vancouver and Whistler for local wild fish. I can see why. I wouldn't want to eat farmed salmon right now either."

Barron thinks the amount of media attention given to the study will boost business even more. "We've seen a slight bump in sales. I would expect that to continue."

Downtown at Neptune Seafoods, Ken Heard said his sales of wild salmon have increased slightly since the study was released. "We haven't carried the farmed salmon for two or three years because of bad publicity. Sales had been declining for a number of years."

Evans says this consumer trend away from farmed salmon is misguided. "We voluntarily monitor our fish for PCBs twice a year. The results show our fish is perfectly safe," said Evans.

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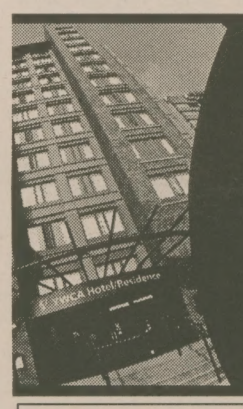

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Scrapped bill no great victory yet for First Nations

Critics say the Martin government has to do more than scrap a bill to mend relations with aboriginals

BY SARAH PETRESCU

Prime Minister Paul Martin's recent dumping of the unpopular Bill C-7, the First Nations Governance Act (FNGA), was little more than saving face according to some aboriginal critics.

"I'm not impressed. It will be back to business as usual," said Dr. Taiaike Alfred, from UVic's Indigenous Governance Program.

"The government will push the same legislation through, just in a smaller and more digestible fashion."

The FNGA was introduced by former Indian Affairs Minister Robert Nault in 2002 to ensure greater accountability of aboriginal leaders and overhaul financial management. The FNGA would amend the Indian Act, a 126-year-old piece of legislation criticized for giving the federal government complete control of relations with aboriginal groups. Prime Minister Martin has said the Act "severely poisoned" government relations with Canada's aboriginals.

The FNGA was widely protested by the country's aboriginal groups for lack of sufficient consultation and imposing changes that do not take into account aboriginal customs and traditions.

"The government wants First Nations to be accountable–an accountability that is familiar to people in government and business, not necessarily First Nations people," said Alfred. "It is another abandonment of what it is to be indigenous in favor of assimilation."

Supporters of the Act included aboriginal groups often marginalized in their communities, such as women and those living off-reserve. Patrick Brazeau, Governance Coordinator for the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, participated in its consultation and said that hearing the Act was scrapped was "not the best news."

"It was the first time in 20 years that the voice of off-reserve aboriginal people was called," said Brazeau.

Brazeau is hopeful that the Martin government will also seek consultation with off-reserve First Nations and continue tackling some of the issues addressed in the FNGA.

"It was by no means a perfect piece of legislation, but at least it offered something for the interim of moving to self-government," said Brazeau.

"Whether we'll work with the Martin government is, at this point, a grey area. But he's already said he plans to include urban aboriginals in planning–so we're hopeful."

The prime minister has taken an overt approach to mending government relations with Canada's aboriginals. Martin's swearing-in as the nation's new leader included a "cleansing ceremony" performed by an aboriginal elder. Martin has said he supports the inherent right to self-government–an issue crucial to favorable treaty negotiations for aboriginal bands.

He will also personally lead a new cabinet committee on aboriginal issues.

Martin's newly-appointed Indian Affairs Minister, Andy Mitchell, and Assembly of First Nations Chief Phil Fontaine have given aboriginal leaders hope for renewed relations between the government and aboriginal groups–a relationship that was strained over the course of the Jean Chretien's 10 years in power. One of Mitchell's first commitments as minister was to ditch and never re-introduce the FNGA.

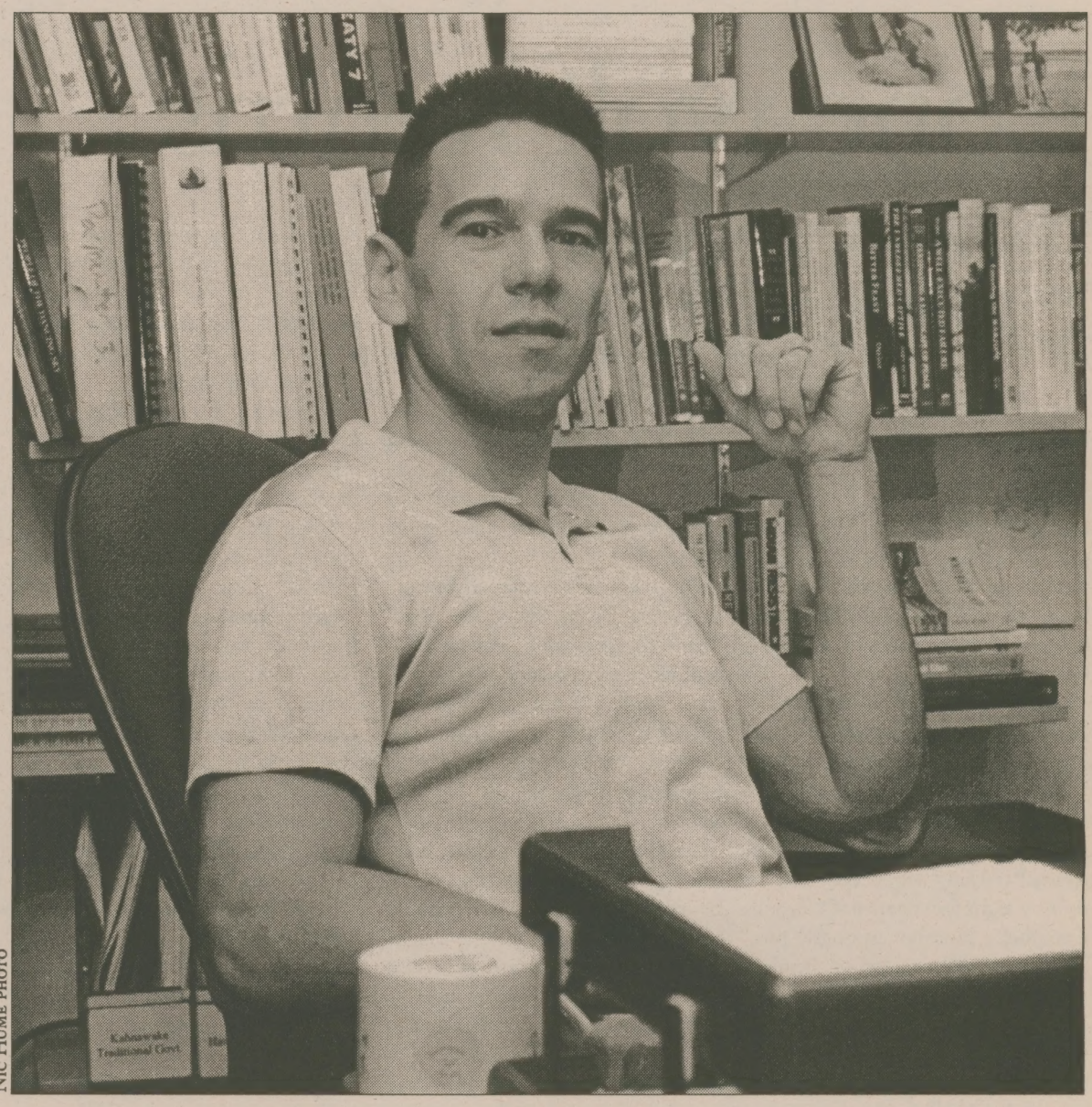
"The scrapping of the FNGA may be a concession by the Martin government. It [the FNGA] was fabulously unpopular, disrupted relations between the government and First Nations, and something had to be done," said Dr. Frank Cassidy, a professor in UVic's public administration and political science departments.

Cassidy said the Martin government now has the opportunity to take a different approach in aboriginal relations.

"The government should consult with First Nations leaders and communities about a long-term and short-term plan towards accountability. The difference is that, unlike the FNGA, the legislation should be enabling," said Cassidy.

Cassidy said an enabling legislation would be a move towards self-government for aboriginal groups, not another set of rules like the FNGA proposed.

"People are alerted now, so any legislation that goes forward that is cast along the same lines as the FNGA will be the focus of some serious opposition."



NIC HUME PHOTO

Dr. Taiaike Alfred, from UVic's Indigenous Governance Program, is skeptical that the dumping of the First Nations Governance Act is a victory for Canada's aboriginal people.

Shrinking board of directors no problem, says Coates

BY PATRICK WHITE

With under two months to go before polls open for the UVic Students' Society (UVSS) elections, only six of 11 elected directors-at-large are still on the board.

Five directors have resigned since the current board was elected on March 7, 2003. The resignations began when Mandy Prenger moved away to Thunder Bay. Prenger's resignation was followed soon after by those of Kristin Leigh and Ian Saunders. Saunders had to move back to his hometown of Duncan because he could not afford rising tuition fees. Leigh had only made it to two board meetings when she resigned.

Late last year both Justin Douglas and Daniel Sorensen handed in resignations. Douglas went travelling to Costa Rica and Sorensen had finished taking classes.

UVSS Chair Jude Coates says that the loss of five directors will put stress on remaining board members to attend all board meetings just to gain quorum. "There's some pressure on existing directors-at-large to participate more on the board, especially with the February 4 day of action coming up."

Board participation will have to increase over last year. From May 22 to Dec. 2, director-at-large Justin Moen attended just two of 16 board meetings and others weren't far ahead.

Directors-at-large are elected by the UVic student body every March to volunteer work on campaigns, events and projects of the UVSS.

Coates doesn't believe that a lack of directors-at-large will affect board business much. "We have some amazing unelected volunteers who have jumped to become just as active as a regular director-at-large. It's been a challenge maintaining quorum at board meetings, but as far as campaigns go student volunteers have propelled us forward."

Only one meeting in the last eight months has failed to get quorum.

For Dallas Henault, president of the UVic BC Young Liberals and a frequent opponent of the Putting Students First slate that currently sits on the board, the shrinking board is no surprise. "There are a few who have power in the current UVSS, and it's their way or the highway. Directors-at-large are not allowed enough power to feel they have any effect."

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Lone wolf returns

Victoria's most visible protester travels Europe to gather support for B.C.'s ancient rainforests

BY JOHN THOMPSON

Ingmar Lee hopes to import activists from Germany to build support for a European boycott of B.C. timber and pulp. If it were anyone but this 44-year-old student in Asian and environmental studies, it probably wouldn't be a big deal.

Lee is UVic's most visible activist. Last year he was often seen perched atop the tree-sit built inside Cunningham Woods to block construction of the Island Medical Building. Over the summer, he was spotted trekking across B.C. with a four-by-eight foot banner of Gordon Campbell's mugshot from the premier's drunk-driving arrest, headed with the caption "convicted criminal." His regular appearance in newspaper reports about protests against logging, tuition fees and farmed salmon have led past *Martlet* articles to describe him, in jest, as "omnipresent." And there seems to be something to this.

In Stephen Hume's book *Off the Map*, Lee even appears in an essay about the Fraser River, where he "swims in the clear eddy, submerges, and listens in wonder to the millions of tons of silt particles whispering past in the opaque walls of the main current and finds a transcendent experience."

On Nov. 16, he flew to Europe and spent the next month riding the rails to Germany, Denmark, Sweden and Holland, giving 20 lectures in 30 days.

The titles of his lectures are instructional. In Berlin, he spoke about "How the powerful German environmental movement can help protect British Columbia's forests." In Münster, Sassenburg, and Dissen, he gave workshops on "What can German consumers do for B.C. forests?"

Lee said he found a receptive audience. In Germany, they're on to their fifth generation of replanted trees. "They mourn for the loss of their wilderness, and they recognize what they've lost," he said.

Thirty-five per cent of the German land base is forest, some of which is beginning to sustain wilderness once more. Germans recently celebrated when news hit that wolves had crossed the border from Poland.

"They've recognized how wonderful wilderness is and how difficult it is to restore," said Lee.

During his meetings with prominent German activists, Lee says he was struck by how interchangeable they were with their counterparts back home.

"I learned just how compatible and seamless the movement was," he said, adding that whether you take a local member of the Forest Action Network or an activist from Hamburg, "you could have taken any one of these people and switched them around."

The result of his trip was an e-mail list he's maintaining of 250 Germans who are interested in maintaining an "activist exchange."

While there he also picked up some inspiration from European activist antics. During recent German protests against plans to introduce tuition fees (currently, they have none) students floated down rivers in wetsuits, waving banners. Others occupied the office of the Berlin mayor, or climbed the roof of their legislature.

Lee is an institution unto himself, at least according to the provincial government.

In the legislature on Nov. 24, when B.C. Liberals angrily decried activists' attempts to start a B.C. timber boycott in China, North Island MLA Rod Visser blamed "people like Ingmar Lee, the Suzuki Foundation, Forest Action Network and Western Canada Wilderness Committee," as if Lee's activities were comparable to those of big-brand environmental groups.

Lee considers this government name-calling part of his shit-disturbing credentials. He was also described as a "despicable fearmonger" by the mayor of Nanaimo while campaigning against pesticide use years ago, and was tarred as an "environmental zealot" by Joyce Murray, the minister of Water, Land and Air Protection. Lee used the quote prominently in his successful bid for a seat on the UVic Board of Governors (BOG) two years ago.

"This time, when I run for the BOG, I'll have my other claims to fame," he said.

A veteran tree-planter of 21 years, Lee said his time spent working in the B.C. wilderness forms the foundation of his concern for old-growth forests. He estimates he's planted 1 million trees personally and supervised the planting of 10 million more.

"It gives me the right to criticize what's destroying it," he said, adding that while most foresters spend the bulk of their time in one valley or another, tree-planters trudge across the province, from Saltspring to the receding snow in Fort Nelson.

NIC HUME PHOTO

Environmental activist Ingmar Lee has just returned from a series of packed lectures in Europe.

Known as a lone wolf in the environmental movement, Lee said he worries about the movement being co-opted by "envirocrats." Large environmental groups have recently been in negotiations with the B.C. government to protect parts of the region known as the Great Bear Rainforest. He's concerned protection of Vancouver Island could be plea-bargained away.

Lee said he isn't cut out for non-profit diplomacy. He's uncompromising and speaks with fiery rhetoric–whenever he refers to Weyherhaeuser, Lee qualifies it with "a giant U.S. clear cutting operation."

"I sort of see myself as a mosquito. But what could be more annoying than a mosquito? And a malaria-infected mosquito could be deadly."

Ingmar Lee will be at UVic to speak about his European tour on Thursday, Jan. 22, at 7:30 p.m. in the HSD building, room A240.

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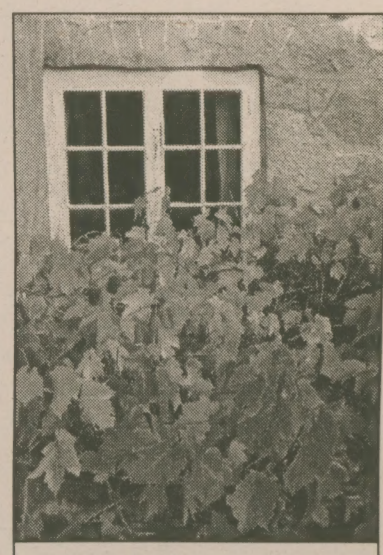

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News briefs

Bursaries on the way

Students awaiting bursaries can soon breathe a sigh of relief. "They will be awarded by the end of this month," said Lori Nolt, Director of Student Awards and Financial Aid.

After changes to regulations regarding bursaries, this year's general bursaries are being awarded in January instead of September. Applicants for the Fall/Winter bursary awards were required to apply by Oct. 15, a new criteria this year.

Nolt said that despite tuition increases and $550,000 in additional funding, so far fewer students have applied than in previous years. Despite the new deadline, students can still apply for emergency funding throughout the year.

–Tim Hanson

Transit Fare Hike Protest

Last Tuesday old age pensioners, UVic and Camosun college students alike gathered at 520 Gorge Road East to protest the Victoria Transit Commission proposal to raise transit fares.

The transit commision, meeting inside, raised a number of new transit funding options. One option proposes to raise all pre-paid fares, except the youth pass, by 10 dollars. As of September 2004, all UVic and Camosun college students could be paying $65 for their U-Passes instead of $55. Adult Passes may also increase to $65, while adult fares could increase from $1.75 to $2, and discount fares from $1.15 to $1.25.

Mayors Frank Leonard and Alan Lowe voiced dissatisfaction with the provincial government's refusal to even consider a gas tax on municipalities.

The two mayors then carried a motion to defer a vote on fare increases until a second meeting with the deputy minister of Transportation could be held to again discuss a gas tax. A final decision regarding fare hikes should be made by the end of February.

–Tim Hanson

U of A undergrads face 5.3 per cent tuition increase

EDMONTON (CUP) – After voting down the administration's multi-year tuition proposition, the University of Alberta Students' Union is doing all they can to defeat this year's proposed 5.3 per cent hike on their own.

The multi-year proposal was defeated by the student council with a vote of 23 to six in November.

However, the administration isn't backing down. This year's proposed 5.3 per cent hike–which, if passed, will work out to approximately $125 per full-time student per term–is the maximum allowable by provincial government legislation, and the administration says that a budgetary deficit makes the increase absolutely necessary.

The Board of Governors will make the final decision on tuition hikes for the 2004–2005 academic year this Friday. "We think a freeze is the first step in the right direction for tuition. Right now there are so many people not coming to university because they're crippled so badly by cost that eventually it should reach some sort of ideal level," said student union President Mat Brechtel.

Brechtel hopes that a series of events this week, including a rally in on Thursday and an overnight vigil will rally support for the student union's position before the Board of Governors decision on Friday.

–Kristine Owram

University of Toronto president fears the freeze

OTTAWA (CUP) – Students may have won the battle, but lost the war, according to University of Toronto President Robert Birgeneau.

Birgeneau, in a brief conversation with Canadian University Press, was commenting on the Ontario Liberal government's promise to freeze tuition fees for two years, starting in the fall of 2004.

Birgeneau fears the lack of funds will jeopardize the quality of education and further cripple the already cash-strapped institutions.

"Students should not pay excessive tuition, but something that is fair," Birgeneau said, adding that this freeze will impact the classrooms and teachers.

In Ontario, the 137 per cent increase is 38 per cent higher than the national average. The rate of increase in this province has slowed this decade–now averaging 5.5 per cent a year– below the national average of 7.4 per cent. However, it's still more than Quebec, which increases by roughly half a percentage point per year.

According to the Council of Ontario Universities, Ontario has the worst teacher-to-student ratio in the country, with an average class size of 24 students.

Tuition fees have been frozen or reduced in Manitoba, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Quebec.

–Adam Grachnik

New U.S. security measures may affect relations with Canada

The U.S. government's tough new security measures at its international borders are sending a strong message to Canada, says Dr. Gordon Smith, director of UVic's Centre for Global Studies and a former Canadian deputy minister of foreign affairs. "If we don't assure the U.S. we have the means and the will to control our borders, our relationship will suffer," says Smith. "The U.S. will do what it takes to assure its security. And with our dependence on open access to the U.S. for goods and people, we must ensure that we are not a route for terrorists to take into the U.S. or else we shall find the border with our neighbour to the south increasingly difficult to cross."

Smith's remarks are in response to U.S. Customs agents' new ability to search an FBI database for a person's criminal past or terrorist links.

This is the first time a country has implemented such a wide-scale identification system for foreign travelers.

–UVic Communications

America in Iraq: Imperialist aggressor or reluctant empire?

BY NOAH ROSS

NOAH ROSS PHOTO

UVic Professor Radhika Desai is clear on the U.S. stance in Iraq as imperialist.

The perception of America as a modern empire is gaining purchase with the invasion of Iraq and consequent strong involvement in "rebuilding" the demolished nation, according to two UVic professors.

"What we call American foreign policy would be more accurately called a strategy of American imperialism, " said Radhika Desai, a political science professor at the University of Victoria. Desai said America has been an imperial nation since its birth and has, since World War I, expanded its dominance over the entire world.

Empire is a word from the past, used to describe the days when the sun never set on the Queen's dominion or when Roman legions manned barricades from Gaul to the slopes of Mount Sinai.

According to Desai, America's invasion of Iraq is the latest gambit in a new imperial phase that has been unveiled since the terrorist attacks of September 11 and is characterized by a desire to politically own productive capacity and resources around the world. She said America will be involved in Iraq for a long time.

"There is resentment against the Americans, and I don't think that they are going to be able to pacify Iraq and then leave it and expect whatever government they set up to be an ally without the support of a substantial military presence," said Desai.

Desai calls the present situation in Iraq American colonialism. "American imperialism has never functioned through direct colonialism. It functions by setting up regimes that are open to American influence," she said.

Robert Bedeski, also a professor in political science at UVic, has different reasons than Desai for calling America's involvement in Iraq imperialist, describing America as "a reluctant empire."

"America feels, because of reasons of security, that it has to be proactive in going after states that sponsor terrorism. It has done that in Afghanistan with vengeance and has followed that mandate in achieving democratization in Iraq," he said.

Bedeski agrees that American policy has changed significantly in recent years. "Since 9/11 we have seen change in American foreign policy. Part of this comes from a disappointment in the results of multilateralism and depending on the United Nations, which has led to a failure in collective actions."

Bedeski said these two factors combined have led to George W. Bush donning the imperial mantel, "out of a sense of preventing terrorism in the future."

Allegations of America's imperial designs are strengthened by the emergence of organizations such as the Project for a New American Century (PNAC). This "non-profit educational organization" is dedicated to the idea American leadership is good for both America and the world.

The organization's initial mandate, from 1997, states: "The history of the 20th century should have taught us that it is important to shape circumstances before crises emerge, and to meet threats before they become dire. The history of this century should have taught us to embrace the cause of American leadership."

This statement contains the genesis of the invasion of Iraq and was signed by Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld, Deputy Defence Secretary Paul Wolfowitz and Vice President Dick Cheney, who are all top ranking officials in the Bush Administration, as well as Jeb Bush, current Governor of Florida.

PNAC has advocated the invasion of Iraq since 1998, urging the Clinton Administration to turn "full attention towards removing Saddam's regime from power." Now that many of PNAC's initial members are part of the Bush administration, their demands are being exercised through the arms of American foreign policy.

America's current plan is to hand over authority in Iraq to the Iraq Governing Council on July 1, 2004 to form a provisional Iraqi government, followed by the adoption of a constitution and representative elections sometime in 2005. UN Resolution 1511, passed unanimously by the security council on Oct. 26, gave the U.S. and Britain the authority to govern in Iraq but asked that they "return governing responsibilities and authorities to the Iraqi people, as soon as is [practical]." However, there has been no talk of when American troops will leave the country.

Recently George W. Bush ignited an international controversy by declaring that the $18.7 billion in reconstruction contracts available in Iraq would only be available to countries that have assisted with the invasion of Iraq. So far, $1.8 billion has been awarded to U.S. contractor Betchtel, who was the recipient of a similar $600 million in untendered reconstruction contracts in the months following the invasion, for upgrading the energy and water system in Iraq.

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EDITORIAL

Radicals in the woods

Visitors from around the world travel to B.C. to scope out our majestic rainforests and wildlife. There's a reason why: they often have none left back home.

In much of Europe, old-growth forests are a thing of the past. Much has changed since those trees were cut. If the logging industry today possesses technology to uproot trees with ever-increasing efficiency, they also exercise restraint not known during earlier times. Of course, this didn't happen by itself. Change usually doesn't without a struggle.

Ever since 12,000 citizens descended on the forests of Clayoquot Sound in 1993 to obstruct logging, there has been pressure on industry to clean up its act–or at least its image. From the vantage point most of us share, it's a bit hard to tell which. Unless you live beneath a mossy, rain-sopped lean-to in the remotest parts of this province, the extensive logging that still happens is likely out of sight.

Both sides of the debate over B.C.'s forests suffer a credibility problem. The logging industry is driven by profit margins. While they'll always publicly deny their willingness to harvest their livelihood out of existence, past experience from other sectors, say the Atlantic fishing industry, tells another story. On the other side of the debate, activists become hard to believe when it seems they're so driven by their convictions they're willing to say or do anything to achieve their goals.

The result is that a simple question like how many old-growth trees are left in the province becomes difficult to answer, since every source is eager to put their own spin on the truth. And with the numbers in suspicion, public debate often drifts into name-calling and crass stereotypes: logging industrialists are tough pragmatists, environmentalists are flaky ideologues.

But this stereotype is deflated easily enough by the simple point that if we keep logging old-growth, there eventually won't be any left.

That's why, while we might not always agree with people like Ingmar Lee, we're still glad they're around. Change doesn't happen without struggle, and every movement needs a cutting edge.

Dead dogs shouldn't vote

In one year, 2001–2002, the federal Liberal Party in B.C. grew from 4,000 to 37,000 members. The vast majority of those new members were signed up with one goal: make Paul Martin Prime Minister. And it worked.

By last spring Martin had signed up so many new members that John Manley, Allan Rock, and Brian Tobin had all decided that beating him was impossible. Sheila Copps stayed on until the end, but more to make a speech than out of any serious hope of winning. Martin built a commanding lead before the game began so that he never had to compete.

It turns out perhaps much of that lead in B.C. was an illusion. It has been widely reported in the Vancouver Sun, the Globe and Mail and elsewhere that many of the 33,000 new members of the B.C. Liberal party never existed. Some were double memberships, some were fake names, one was even a dead golden retriever. Right here at UVic, students became members of the party without signing a sheet, paying a fee or even expressing interest in the party.

This represents a huge failure in Canadian democracy. No less than the Prime Minister himself attained his office at least partly as a result of outright fraud.

Dead dogs and phantom members are not democracy. Serious questions need to be answered about the internal workings of the Liberal Party of Canada. The operations of the insular team that surrounds the Prime Minister and spent a decade ensuring his victory need to come to light before anyone can be expected to make an honest judgement about whether this man is appropriate to lead this country.

Editorial topics are decided on by staff at editorial meetings. Editorials are written by one or more staff members, and are not necessarily the opinion of all staff members.

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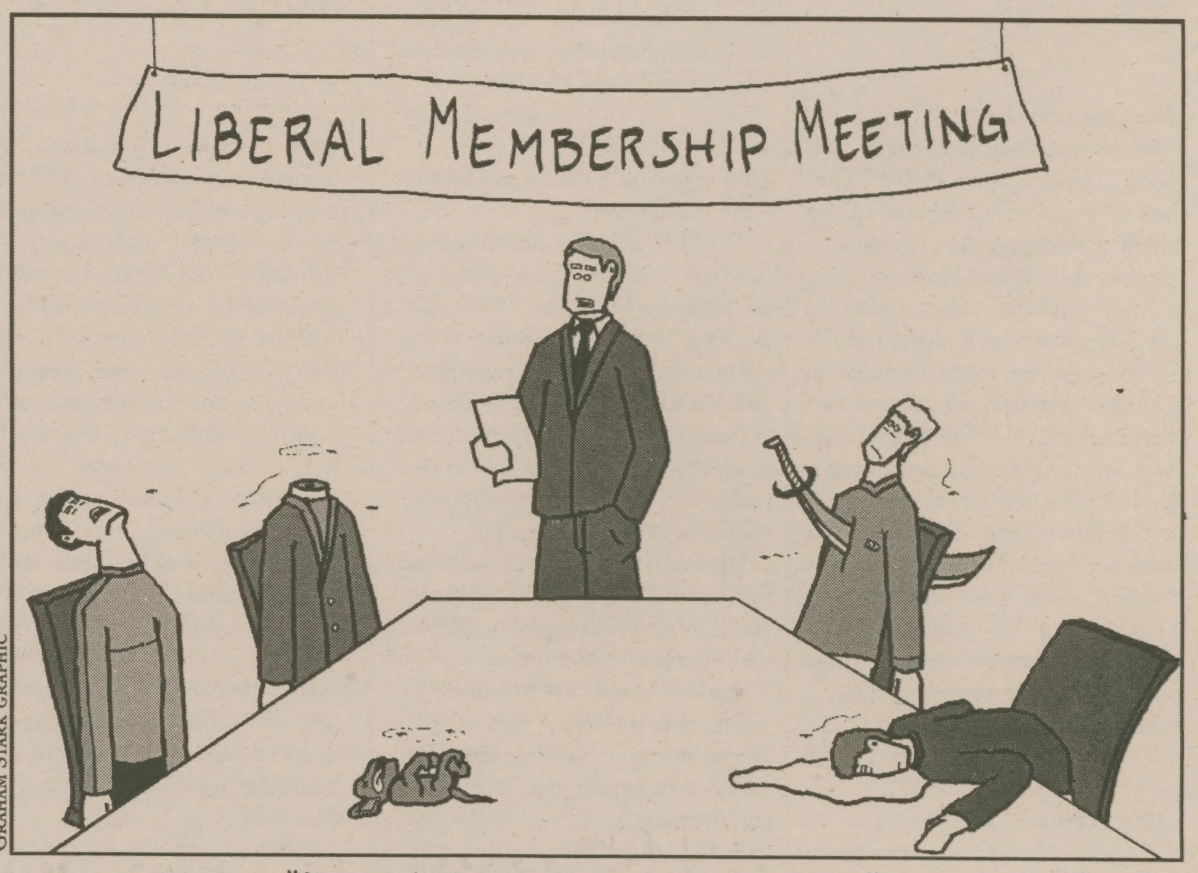

GRAHAM STARK GRAPHIC

"Okay, all in favour sit very still and fester."

LETTERS

Martlet's Patrick White chastised

In researching his faux-exposé "Spector Undone," your correspondent Patrick White could have spared himself some time and embarrassment by reading *Chronicle of a War Foretold*.

In this recently published collection of my columns in the *Globe and Mail* and various other newspapers across Canada, I ask readers not to blame the book's editor for instances of duplication, which are the "sole responsibility of an author whose goal is to reach the widest possible audience, and who cannot help himself from using a good line twice."

To come clean completely on my "self-plagiarism" (Mr. White's contradictory term and, thus, logically absurd accusation), I also freely acknowledge translating sentences and whole paragraphs (for which I own the copyright) into French, in my regular column in *Le Devoir*.

Norman Spector

Campbell's rocket ride revisited

Those melodramatic, adjective-laden letters written by UVic's Liberal contingent in last week's *Martlet* are right. The despicable marginalization of elitist white men by cartoonists has got to stop. If it doesn't, serious trouble may ensue.

So what might happen, you ask? People could choke. We learned in last week's *Martlet* that humorous drawings of politicians with drunk driving records can cause people to choke on their falafel. Agata Lis' emotional letter confirmed this. Choking has the potential to be fatal, so this is obviously no laughing matter. But there is much more wrong with these drawings than the gag reflex they produce.

Tom Gregson wrote in last week's *Martlet* that the images of Gordon Campbell riding the rocket were "completely disgusting," which is the sort of language we apply to anything that isn't fit for public display. Perhaps just as disgusting as the 2001 native treaty referendum was to thousands of people. Heck, you know what? Maybe even more disgusting than the referendum! That's some serious stuff.

So please, people, think of the Young Liberals next time you want to lampoon a poor, defenceless politician like Gordon Campbell. Who knows, you might just save a life.

Geordie Clarke

Students, workers must unite

Since 2001, tuition fees at UVic have been artificially inflated to serve the B.C. Liberal agenda of privatizing the costs of post-secondary education. How else do we explain an $18-million budget surplus?

A government-funded model, accessible to low-income students, is being replaced with a user-fee model, where only the rich can afford an education. Sadly, UVic administrators have been complicit in this unethical plan.

The current labour dispute has situated teaching assistants at the forefront of the struggle for publicly funded education. It is the duty of all progressive members of the university community to stand with CUPE at this time.

The longer the line, the shorter the strike. Students, professors and other workers must band together, striking a blow against the agenda of greed that is sweeping across this province. A line has been drawn in the sand. Which side are you on?

Ben Isitt

Campbell 'fan club' panned

Dear *Martlet*,

I see that UVic B.C. Young Liberals president Dallas Henault has mustered all three members of his Gordon Campbell fan-club to write letters criticizing student protest over sky-rocketing tuition hikes. Additionally, supporters of the convicted criminal Premier have now destroyed a sign in front of the SUB.

On todays front pages, we learn that UVic B.C. Young Liberals are now implicated in the recent RCMP raids in the Premier's wing of the B.C. legislature. Apparently, in a desperate effort to boost membership, even a dead dog has been signed up as a card-carrying, voting B.C. Liberal!

Surely, these students would do better by humbly accepting their good fortune, as opposed to conniving with criminals at the Ledge and behaving like a bunch of spoiled brats.

Ingmar Lee

Friends appreciate Gunt

Dear *Martlet*,

As dear roommates of Steve Canning, we would like to clarify a few points with respect to December 4' s article on the "wolf-chasing skier."

Firstly, the name Steve Canning is just an alias–his real name is Gunt. Secondly, Scotti notes that Mt. Waddington is actually deep within the B.C. Coastal Mountain range, not on Vancouver Island. In addition, bushwhacking through a But inlet is just unpleasant–the group bushwhacked through Bute Inlet.

Lastly, the article highlights several of Gunt's accomplishments but doesn't encompass the shear magnitude of this hippy's personal landscape: his effect on loved ones. Gunt's uninhibited presence in our house has left a scarring mark on dear Bryson Robertson… sauna anyone? Shannon Mallory wonders if there is actually an orange curly haired dog showering downstairs. David Abercrombie curses Gunt as a poor redneck as he tried to deal with the bouncing checks. David Giovando, Gunt's style coordinator, works day and night to ensure the hippy is esthetically successful. Shayla Hall bargains for a fair trade deal in the massage circle, and Scotti Thumlert is recognized as a relatively talented musician compared to the dying-cat sounds coming from Gunt's violin.

We love our little Gunt, and we would like to wish him success as we set him free into the Wild this semester.

Shayla Hall, Scott, Abercrombie, Gio, Shannon, Bryson

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TA defends union's right to strike

'Nobody really relishes the idea of walking in a picket line'

BY ANGELA ANDERSEN

Are union members a pain in the heinie of your sweatshop-made jeans, or a group of labourers who ensure fair and safe working conditions?

If there was a strike, would you cross the picket line, or join it? As UVic and members of CUPE 4163 work to avoid a strike, those are the kinds of questions that deserve some reflection. What are our attitudes to unions? Do unions help or hinder our university, and our society as a whole?

Although many were quick to voice their support last Friday morning as teaching assistants, computer user services employees, cultural assistants and second language instructors handed out information leaflets, there were also many who were less than impressed with workers for "stirring up trouble." One gentleman, in response to the job action, said, "I worked to pay for my education in my day." Certainly he did work, but so do these union members. As a self-proclaimed "worker" why did he scoff at the efforts of another generation of students and employees seeking education while paying to feed and shelter themselves?

If the recent strike by the BC Ferry and Marine Workers Union is any indication, certain sectors of the community have little sympathy for any strike action that interferes with their daily routines. While it is understandable that vendors want to move perishables on and off the islands and people have jobs, family and medical appointments that require travel, the fact is that a vocal public didn't stand behind the ferry workers, leaving many grumbling under their breath that "They make too much anyway." But would you want the woman who is supposed to save your life if the ship goes down to have sub-standard training and inadequate pay, even if she is flipping burgers in the meantime?

What about UVic's "educational employees"? If they went on strike, would you inform yourself of the issues, and the contribution of these workers to the operation of UVic, or would you be pissed that your exam came back three months after you wrote it because your prof had to mark all 200 by himself, without the help of a TA?

The university has skillfully played off the current attitudes towards unions and their demands by stating, in a Bargaining Bulletin posted on UVic's official website on Jan. 5, 2004, that "The main source of new revenue to provide additional support to graduate students is tuition increases. Most tuition revenue is from undergraduate students." This, of course, implies that any increase in wages or additional funding for graduate student employees would be to the detriment of undergraduates.

UVic and CUPE 4163 continue to talk. Nobody really relishes the idea of walking in a picket line instead of getting down to the real work at the university, which is what union workers and their employers really want anyway.

Angela Andersen is a History in Art graduate student and TA.

U.S. mad cow spoils Canadian beef

'Prices dropped across the country and national campaigns were launched'

BY MITCH LEBLANC

I was home on the ranch for the holidays when news that BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or mad-cow disease) had been found in a cow in the United States. My first reaction was "Hell yeah!" followed about two seconds later by "Oh shit!"

When BSE was found in a cow in Canada in May 2003, our border was closed to every major beef trading partner that we had. Prices dropped across the country and national campaigns were launched to rebuild domestic consumer confidence in Canadian beef products.

Unfortunately, the only way to test for BSE is by testing their brain matter, resulting in the death of the animal. Within weeks, hundreds of cattle had been slaughtered and others were quarantined across the western provinces. All of the possible links were followed and tests came back negative across the board. It eventually became safe to say Canadian beef was indeed low risk and the solitary case of BSE in Canada was an isolated event. Officials acted swiftly to clear our good name and acted on science, not fear, to do it.

My initial reaction to the American BSE case was spurred by a desire for them to to feel the financial pain that most of the families from my hometown knew throughout this year.

My delayed reaction was the product of an overriding sense of foreboding that BSE down south would not bode well for Canadian ranchers. It was shortly proven justified.

Within days of confirming a case of BSE in a dairy cattle herd in southern Washington, investigators were very quick to spout off remarks about how only one infected cow did not constitute a risk. Remarks that any Canadian could have told them would not help reopen their borders to the beef market.

Then came the inevitable–investigators announced that the cow came from Canada. Their accusation was based on nothing more than animal records from both sides of the border, which incidently showed the cow to be of two different ages. As with the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the Bush administration was quick to pass the buck to its northern neighbours with their release of "unconfirmed" and "premature" data in the hopes that they could shift the blame back to us and forestall the economic fallout that they knew was coming.

After that, there was really no choice left but to "invite" Canadian officials to partake in tracking the path that the cow took before it reached the slaughterhouse and entered the American food supply. Given our previous expertise and the fact that we were being named as the source, it was the least that they could do while they covertly destroyed another part of our economy.

Gold rush to privatize water

BY KEVIN WALBY

Since water is required for all human activities, it is a moral imperative that the world's water remains free, accessible, clean and publicly controlled.

Corporate globalization, the planetary re-organization of resources and labour by unaccountable political and economic elites, has drastic consequences for the accessibility of water.

The increasing ability of international economic institutions, like the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, to dictate domestic policy in developing nations creates opportunities for privatization. The extended reach provided to multinational corporations by the WTO and NAFTA relegates water to the status of just another commodity to be bought and sold on the open market. As corporate globalization invades more public domain, the economic and cultural survival of the world's poor is squeezed out of the equation.

Most water sources on the planet are already contaminated with agricultural chemical runoff, industrial runoff, and human waste. In the developed world, we have the technological ability to filter and purify water for drinking, while in the developing world nearly 2 billion people are suffering because of improper sanitation. The need for clean and free water is dire in most developing countries. Population explosions, and the growth of mega-urban centers of 10 million people or more, compounds this dire situation.

International economic institutions like the IMF and World Bank are in a position to assist the poorest nations become economically viable and politically autonomous. International development should aim to increase the socioeconomic status of the most oppressed persons of any country in a way that doesn't compromise environmental sustainability.

Instead, the IMF and World Bank, through structural adjustment programs (SAPS), endorse the deregulation of markets, the unregulated flow of capital and goods across borders, and the privatization and commercialization of non-renewable resources. Corporations have nearly open access to key resources like water in developing countries.

Instead of creating community programs focused on increasing water security, SAPS promote the switch from subsistence agriculture to more water intensive export/monoculture agriculture. SAPS facilitate the reach of multinational corporations into developing countries, and constitute a gross misuse of their national resources.

Corporate globalization is re-organizing developing countries to be dependent on an import-export based world economy in which they cannot compete, and trade laws are redefining the boundaries of what can be privately owned to include water, education and health care.

Access to water, education and health care should be guaranteed as human rights to all people.

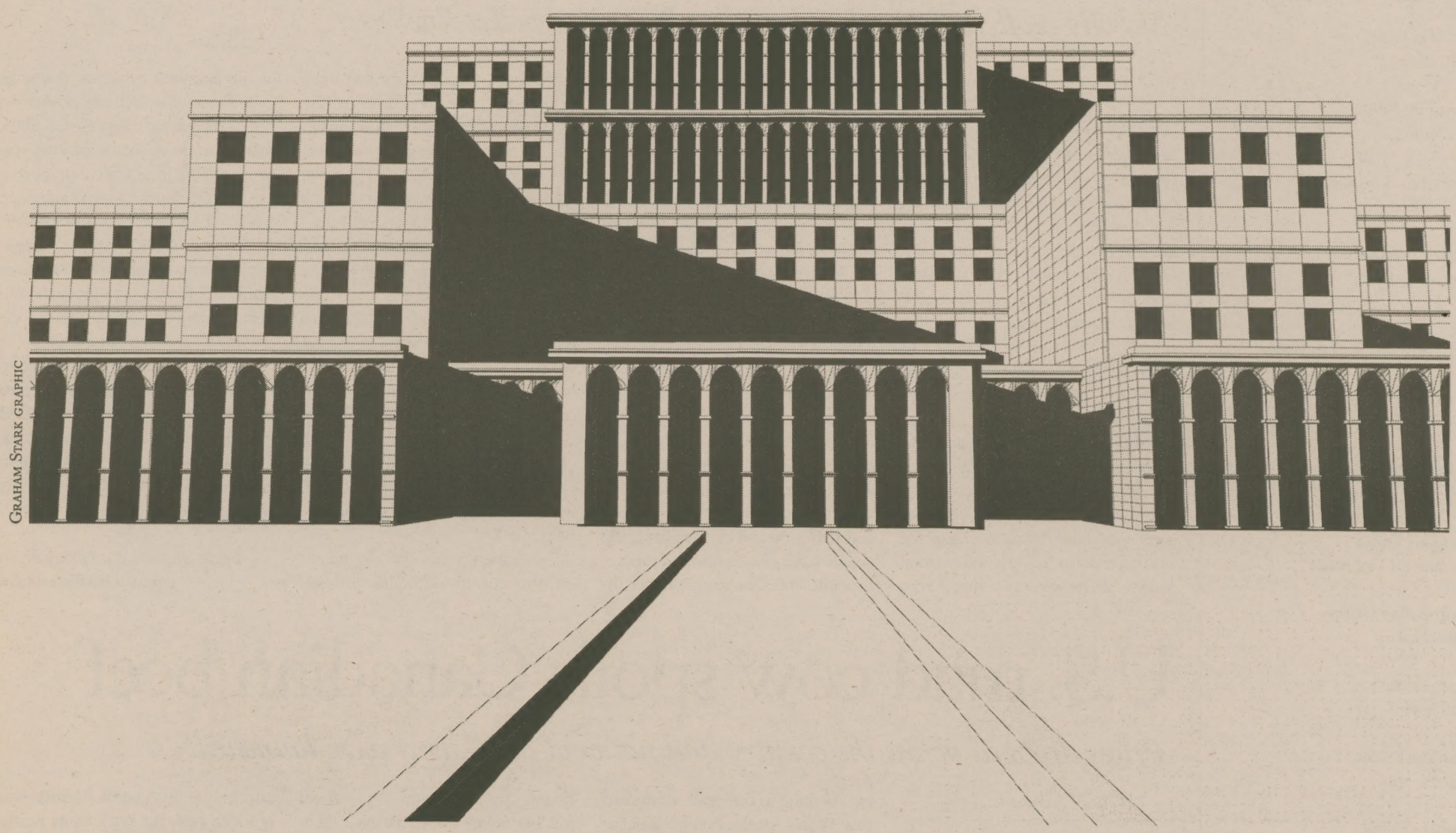
In Canada under neo-liberalism, and in the developing world under SAPS, cuts to government spending mean that more and more services are not being provided by public institutions, and are subject to privatization.

It is quite clear that as the world's water supply diminishes, the privatization of water will become a major political issue. If neo-liberal trade law is the method by which the accessibility of water is distributed, then future generations will likely have to pay through the teeth to fulfill their basic human needs. The managers of global capitalism are less concerned with these disparities and more concerned with the profit they will make off the global upper and middle classes.

Providing water through public institutions as opposed to corporations ensures a national standard of water safety. 'Water scares' recently experienced in Canada reflect the need for improved government services, not privatization The same argument can be extended to education and health care.

Consider that in most developing nations whatever scarce water is available for consumption is typically contaminated with the same disease-causing microbials that infected and killed people in Walkerton, Ontario. Water-borne illness is a huge cause of death in the developing world.

If we really believe in the intrinsic value of all human beings, then the neo-liberal gold rush to privatize water needs to be impeded. A collective response must require government policy makers, NGO's, and anti-corporate globalization movements to work together to achieve the goal of water security.



Graham Stark graphic

The madman's house

Romania, after the revolution

by Richard Warnica

The street yawns across a dozen empty lanes. Crumbling gray and brown apartment complexes border the sidewalks. Large pieces of concrete mix with smaller chips of gravel to make the road resemble the footage of shattered Berlin after World War II.

There are cars parked on either side, but the only vehicle passing us is a donkey cart bearing a family of Roma. My partner Amy snaps their picture as they cross in front of a billboard advertising Coke. They smile and wave as we carry on.

At the end of the street is the world's second largest building. As we approach it we pass an elaborate system of tiled fountains. Water flows from none of them, and the once elaborate tile-work is colourless and fractured.

The shops and cafés leading up to the building are all closed. They sit shuttered, looking for all the world like the empty husk of a plague-ridden town in an old Western.

We pause at the head of the street as the size of the building comes into focus. Unobstructed, the palace is daunting. But step back and see it from behind a broken sign, with the decaying architecture in full view, or step close enough to realize that all the grass in its elaborate gardens is dead, and it seems more like a joke. Like an Orwellian image of contemporary feudalism: the castle on the hill, oblivious to the plight of the serfs below.

The street is the Boulevard of Unity in the Romanian capital of Bucharest. Up until 1989 it was the Boulevard of Socialist Victory. The building, now the Palace of the Parliament, used to be called the People's Palace, but most people here call it the "Madman's House."

The madman was Nicolae Ceausescu, who ruled Romania from 1965 when he was elected First Secretary of the Communist Party until, with communist regimes falling across Europe, he was overthrown and executed by a new regime on Christmas Day, 1989.

In 1972 Ceausescu made a visit to Kim Il Sung's North Korea. He came away obsessed with the rigorous internal discipline and personality cult of the Kim family. He determined to remake his country in the Korean image.

The highlight of the plan was a total reworking of Bucharest. Ceausescu had the entire centre of the old city, an area of more than five square kilometers, leveled and remade to his liking.

In the process, the entire Jewish quarter, along with hundreds of medieval churches, homes and buildings, was destroyed. Forty thousand people were forcibly relocated. The core of the once-fabled "little Paris of the East" was replaced with dozens of "People's Houses," the now-crumbling apartment complexes that line the downtown streets.

The centerpiece of the project was to be the People's Palace and its partner, the Boulevard of Socialist Victory. The Boulevard, now a decaying joke, was built, in a mix of one-upmanship and homage to Bucharest's reputation as the "little Paris," to be just fractionally longer than the Champs-Élysées in Paris. The palace, in front of which we were now standing, was intended to be the largest, most opulent building ever constructed.

We cross the mouth of Boulevard of Unity where it branches off to provide a moat-like street in front of the palace. When we reach the pathway ringing the building, a sign planted in the dying lawn instructs us to approach from the visitor's entrance on the side of the building.

The sheer size of the thing only becomes clear as we try to circumnavigate it. Our shins are sore from the concrete by the time we make it around.

A tour bus disgorging German tourists obstructs the entrance. The door faces out on an empty parking of pockmarked gravel and asphalt. Though it looks built to accommodate a crowd of thousands, only a dozen or so cars are littered throughout.

We enter and are told by a smiling university age tour guide that the next English tour will be in five minutes. Fifteen minutes later an octogenarian British tourist approaches the same guide and learns that the tour we're waiting for is still only five minutes away. I decide to explore the gift shop.

As I wait in line to buy a pin that pairs the red-blue-yellow tricolor Romanian flag with the silver and blue emblem of NATO, an American woman berates the man at the counter for refusing her U.S. currency. The man, in faltering and heated English, tries to explain that he doesn't have enough to give her change for her $20 bill. Eventually I get my pin and return on time for the tour to begin.

Our group contains a hodgepodge of tourists whose languages aren't popular enough to deserve separate tours. An Israeli woman translates every word in hushed Hebrew for her awed mother. A German, who just missed the tour in his language, puzzles through with the small mix of English common to him and our guide. The guide herself wears an impeccable black blazer and matching skirt. She speaks in a rapid staccato English with every phrase punctuated with a spat-out "okay?"

She tells us how, at 84 metres high and 330,000 square metres in area the palace is the world's second largest building. Only the Pentagon in Washington is larger. Over 3,500 tons of crystal was used in the building's 4,500 chandeliers, the smallest of which has 7,000 light bulbs. Over 2,000 workers and 600 architects, under the instruction of the 25-year-old Anna Petrescu (a close relative of Ceausescu's wife Elena), laboured to create the building.

In the Union Hall, built to be the centre ballroom, is a 14-ton, 1,000 square metre carpet

purported to be the world's largest. When we reach the room the floor is bare. It seems oddly fitting that in the madman's house the world's largest carpet is rolled up against a wall.

On the tour I expect to hear more about how the building consumed Romania's gross domestic product for a decade. How, while Ceausescu was having the palace built, he was also starving his people by rapidly forcing the collectivization of the Romanian economy. How 11 million people, including most of the country's sizable Hungarian minority, were displaced by his attempt at centralization.

We hear nothing about how while this was going on Ceausescu, an ardent nationalist, became obsessed with paying off his foreign debt. Any resources not poured into the palace were funneled to foreign creditors.

The result was massive shortages of just about everything. Food rationing was introduced for the first time since the 1950s, and malnutrition became endemic.

When we reach the balcony overlooking the Piazza Unirii we are told that Ceausescu built it to be a grand platform from which to address the masses. He never got the chance. As the German man standing next to me jovially comments, by the time the balcony was finished in 1990, Ceausescu was dead. The first man to address an adoring crowd from the People's Palace was Michael Jackson.

In December 1989, with revolutions sweeping across the rest of Communist Europe, a dispute over a Catholic priest in the border town of Timisioara erupted into widespread protest. Ceausescu, fearing that the revolt would spread, ordered troops to open fire on the protesters. Hundreds were killed.

Rather than quell the dispute, the violence spurred it onward. On Dec. 21 troops opened fire on protesters in Bucharest.

When Ceausescu tried to address the crowd the next day from his palace he was chanted down by pro-democracy songs. Soon after, the army joined the protesters and the regime was overthrown. The Ceausescus tried fleeing in a helicopter but, in a country renowned for chronic fuel shortages, it ran out of gas. Soon after they were captured and executed by the new regime.

Amy and I hadn't planned on going to Bucharest. Nothing we read in *Let's Go* or *Lonely Planet* about the deteriorating architecture or the few remnants of the once-beautiful city seemed encouraging. Having already been to Prague and Budapest, and with Istanbul looming in the near future, a visit to another big city, especially one usually described as a nightmare of communist architecture gone wrong, didn't really appeal to us.

That changed when, on our first night in Sigisioara, a picturesque medieval citadel in the Transylvanian hills, I came across an old copy of the British journal *Granta*, dated from June of 1990.

In it, William McPherson, a former *New York Times* reporter, wrote about how with Ceausescu dead the revolution was co-opted by a clique of former Communist officials led by Ion Iliescu.

Iliescu had been a high-ranking official in the Ceausescu regime since the early '70s. About a decade later, he fell out of favour with the ruling elite and was removed from the party apparatus.

When the Romanian people revolted, Iliescu capitalized and seized control of the revolution. With the co-operation of much of the Ceausescu infrastructure he arrested the dictator and his wife, tried them, shot them, and settled down to the business of ruling his new country.

Early in the new year Iliescu and his National Salvation Front party, rife with high-level Ceausescu officials, were elected in a process generally condemned as rigged.

In April of 1990, students from the university in Bucharest, convinced that the revolution they had helped start had been stolen from them by the Iliescu group, occupied Victory Square in the city centre.

Two months later, with the students still in the Square, Iliescu shipped in 10,000 loyalist miners from the Jiu Valley and asked them to "restore the peace" in the city. Armed with clubs and mining tools the men rampaged through the city, ransacking the offices and homes of leading opposition figures before heading for the main square.

As McPherson and other Western journalists who were staying in a hotel on one side of the square looked on in horror, the miners savaged the unarmed student protestors. In one incident McPherson described stepping outside his hotel as a screaming young student ran by pursued by miners. When they caught her, barely half a block from where McPherson stood, they tore her shirt off and beat her bloody with their fists, feet and clubs. In a two-day pogrom of violence, 22 people were killed and an estimated 650 injured.

Iliescu ruled as president until 1996 and was re-elected last year. While he was initially condemned in the West, he has slowly rehabilitated his image. He supported both American wars against Iraq and was generously rewarded for his compliance.

Today, Romania sets its hopes of economic recovery almost entirely on admittance to the European Union. With an economy that routinely ranks as Europe's worst and a still-questionable human rights record, that isn't likely to happen any time soon.

In a hostel in Brasov, a town on the train route between Sigisioara and Bucharest, I talked to a vacationing Romanian student from the capitol. She was studying English literature but had never read anything from Canada. I gave her my copy of Michael Ondaatje's *In the Skin of a Lion.*

When she talked about the Ceausescu era she struggled to put it in the past tense. "He probably isn't really dead," she told me.

Ceausescu was obsessed with his personal safety and had dozens of body doubles. The quick sham trial and execution of one dictator and his replacement with another communist official leaves many in Romania convinced to this day that it was all a charade.

Ion Iliescu now serves as president from his office in the People's Palace. The building, with its grandiose opulence surrounded by a fast-crumbling city centre, sticks out like a bloody gash as a reminder of what this country has endured, and also as to what hasn't changed.

Menagerie not earth-shattering but will suffice

BY ZOË BAKE-PATERSON

Far from the schmaltzy melodrama the title suggests, Tennessee Williams' play *The Glass Menagerie* is as thoughtful, reminiscent and bittersweet a classic as it is supposed to be.

In part a story about the hardships of a family, the play also delves deeply into the redemption and self-discovery that comes through reflection.

"I am the opposite of the stage magician. He gives you illusion that has the appearance of truth. I give you truth in the pleasant disguise of illusion," says Tom Wingfield, played by James McAndrew, in the beginning monologue of *The Glass Menagerie*, which is an accurate description of this performance.

As a "memory play"–a story told through the memories of Tom Wingfield about his life with his family–the performance is filtered through Tom's own subjectivity.

PROVIDED PHOTO

Jessi Simpson and James McAndrew in Tennesee Williams' play The Glass Menagerie, playing at the Langham Court Theatre.

"Memory takes a lot of poetic license," writes Tennessee Williams. "It omits some details, others are exaggerated."

The cast is headed by McAndrews in a solid performance in the role of Tom. McAndrews, a newcomer to Langham Court Theatre, improved as the play went on. His one flaw was that his monologues at the beginning and end of the piece revealed a suave side that was far from the defiant and optimistic writer he was during the rest of the play.

But the star of the stage was Maureen Cusack, a familiar face at Langham Court and in other Vancouver Island shows, who plays the dynamic role of Amanda Wingfield, a single mother and former Southern belle.

The third character in this three-person show is Laura Wingfield as played by Jessi Simpson. Although Simpson was well-suited for the role of the slight and crippled sister, her performance was inconsistent. Switching from a limping left leg to a limping right leg (in addition to a fluctuating accent of nebulous origin), Laura was unclear but easy to ignore.

Unfortunately, the set was less easy to ignore. The pastel pink rippled fabric that forms a remotely heart-shaped wall was distracting, though it did vaguely suggest a dream-like setting.

Thankfully the detailed props, including a wonderfully lit glass menagerie, helped recover some sense of setting in the play.

As with many plays at Langham Court Theatre, the atmosphere feels quite intimate as the auditorium–set in a former stable–seats less than other main stage theatres. The close proximity between actors and viewers helps draw audience members into the story.

Overall, Lemly's production of *The Glass Menagerie* offers an entertaining evening.

The Glass Menagerie *runs at the Langham Court Theatre from Jan. 8 to 24 at 8 p.m. Student tickets are $13, adults $15.*

Supa-fly hip-hop reviews

BY TYLER J. LEMMON

Gang Starr
The Ownerz
Virgin

Gang Starr, the rap duo consisting of Guru and DJ Premier, have been kicking it for over a decade. Since their 1989 debut *No More Mr. Nice Guy*, they have developed a loyal following and are one of the few rap acts today that have remained true to their roots and haven't been commercialized like some modern rappers, including Ja Rule and Fat Joe. Their sixth album is their first new material in five years, since 1998's *Moment of Truth*. With *The Ownerz*, true hip-hop heads won't be disappointed.

The second track, "Put Up or Shut Up," serves as one of the album's highlights, with Guru and his protégé Krumbsnatcha flowing nicely over Premier's banging production. The entire album is produced by Premo, the beats just as crisp as at the group's inception. The barrage of cuts and scratches will surely bring a smile to even the most depressed turntablist.

Although he has worked with Guru for the entire span of his career, some may be more familiar with Premo as the beatsmith behind Nas's classic "Memory Lane" or Biggie's banger "Kick in the Door."

The recent single "Rite Where You Stand" is one of the album's top tracks, with Guru and former Lox-turned-D-Block member Jadakiss exchanging lyrical darts over Premo's dark, loopy studio concoction. Gang Starr fans will be happy with the single, although some continue to doubt Guru's ability as an MC, citing repetitive rhyme schemes, lack of punchlines and a monotone flow. In contrast, Jadakiss drops gems like "as soon as the chrome scope 'em/right there two in the dome smokin'/Kiss keeps funeral homes open," which outshine Guru's unoriginal physical threats.

However, not all the guest appearances are worthy of attention. Recent Roc-A-Fella signees M.O.P., Freddie Foxxx and Big Snoop Dogg spit verses so average they must be saving the dope lyrics they're capable of for their own respective albums.

Although songs such as "Rite Where You Stand," "Deadly Habits," "Peace of Mine" and "Eulogy"–a dedication to rap's fallen soldiers which gives a shout out to Big L, who is often overshadowed by the more famously deceased Biggie and Tupac–showcase Gang Starr's cohesiveness and ability to produce quality music, cuts like "Riot Akt" and "Hiney" lower the overall quality of the product. This conundrum leaves critics wondering if Guru and Premo will finally dent the billboard charts, or perhaps finish their careers as the finest rap group to never grasp a platinum plaque.

The Ownerz will satisfy fiending Gang Starr-heads, but new jacks are probably better off purchasing the group's greatest hits double album entitled *Full Clip*.

Roscoe
Young Roscoe Philaphornia
Priority

Roscoe is undoubtedly an integral part of the future of West Coast rap music. Better known as the younger brother of legendary Dogg Pound member Gangsta Kurupt, Roscoe first spat verses on his big bro's *The Streetz Iz a Mutha* album. After releasing the mix-tape gem "I love Cali," the 18-year-old MC has finally dropped his debut *Young Roscoe Philaphornia*, an ode to his birthplace of Philadelphia and California, where he now resides. This geographical switch influences the album, as Roscoe combines a quick east coast flow with bouncy, funk-induced West Coast beats.

The first single "Head To Toe" was quite possibly the most slept-on song of the year, with Atlanta's Sleepy Brown lacing the hook with his laid-back rhymes. Rap heads might remember Sleepy from his work with Outkast, as well as being featured on Killer Mike's single "A.D.I.D.A.S."

The second single "Smooth Sailing" is the perfect summer anthem, and even features a sample of Earth, Wind and Fire's "Brazilian Rhyme." "Smooth Sailing" received considerable airplay here in Victoria, which is refreshing as Canadian DJs have tended to turn a deaf ear towards West Coast artists in the last few years.

On the opening track,"5 Seconds," Roscoe makes it known from the beginning that anyone not appreciating his style can "press eject." It is this type of behaviour, along with similar-sounding voices and rhyme patterns, that inspires critics to compare Roscoe to Kurupt Young Gotti.

The beats on this album are no joke either. West Coast luminaries such as DJ Quik, Soopafly, and Def Jeff–of Too Short fame–provide classic West Coast flavor, as does ATL's own Organized Noize.

Roscoe has dropped an incredibly solid album, which blends both street and radio songs effectively, with catchy hooks complementing Roscoe's tongue-twisting lyrical patterns. With his debut album, the teenage Roscoe has immediately placed himself in the upper echelon of young West Coast rappers, giving himself the advantage over Aftermath's *The Game* and Tha Row's *Crooked I*. These MC's will find it hard to match the quality of *Young Roscoe Philaphornia* when their respective full-length debuts drop later this year. Not since Nas's *Illmatic* has a teenager made such a large dent in the rap game.

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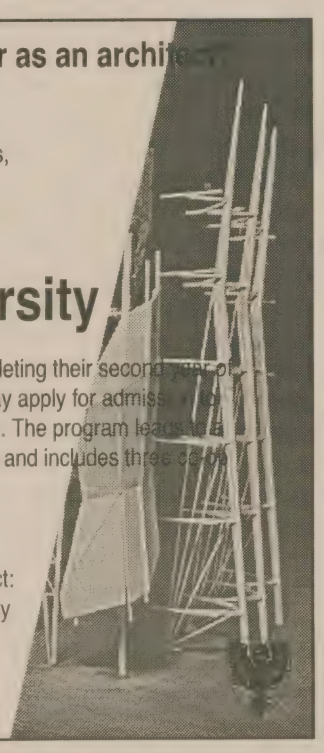

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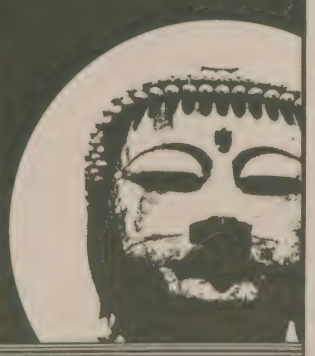

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'To Charles, with Love' is masterful

by Bryna Hallam

Okay, hands up: Who thinks the Prince of Wales is sexy?

Well, you may not agree, but Beth Frey thinks Charles is a smoldering, modern-day Adonis. And she has the shrine to prove it.

Frey, a fourth-year visual arts student at UVic, devoted every day for a month to her royal obsession, collecting memorabilia, building a shrine and painting portraits of Charles.

"It all started when I found an old commemorative video of the royal wedding," gushed Beth Frey of her obsession with that large-lobed royal, Prince Charles.

In particular, it was a scene where he took off his shirt that captured Frey's heart and ultimately her imagination.

"He's very dashing and has a unique look," Frey continued. "And he has a lot of passion. I wanted to show that side of him, the sexy side."

Frey's paintings feature Charles in a variety of scenes and poses. Reality crosses over to fantasy, with paintings of the Prince of Wales au naturel, or posing in the salty sand in his navy uniform.

The final piece created for the show has Frey herself in it, clutching her breast and lifting her dress for Charles. "It was a step from fantasy into a possible scenario," she said.

In addition to the paintings, the complete installation featured a shrine, a "St. Charles" street sign, a doll and photos of Charles and Diana with Diana's head cut out and Frey's inserted in its place.

While the paintings are well-done and capture the eye with their brightcolors, the most interesting part of the project isn't the actual art, but the way Frey has created a character for herself to go along with the art. More than tribute to Charles, the show is a commentary on celebrity obsession, or as Frey puts it, "an impression of obsession."

As Frey points out, only certain people are allowed to be sex symbols, and Charles generally isn't one of them.

"He's such a celebrity, but rarely seen as a sex symbol," said Frey. "It's funny to put him into that context."

The public seems to agree. "Some of my friends were confused," said Frey. "They asked, 'Why Charles? Why not William?', but a lot of people enjoy the humour."

It's the fact that the collection is so over-the-top–and that she doesn't come across as the stalker type–that allows Frey to avoid being frightening in her obsession, making the show comical rather than scary.

Frey spent a month in the summer of 2003 working on "To Charles, with Love" as part of her coursework in the visual arts program.

"I really feel the collection has just started. The obsession really takes over. I've become obsessed with being obsessed," said Frey. "There's always more to get."

The paintings are now on show indefinitely at Logan's. They are somewhat confusing, bizarre and hilarious, but you should see them now, before Frey goes to London searching for Charles.

Nic Hume photo

Doves getting mad love from *Martlet* reviewer

by Richard McDevitt

Doves
Lost Sides
EMI

History has been plagued with extremely good B-sides.

The term comes from the prehistoric days when the good bands released singles on a monthly basis. The B-side was like the modern bonus track. It was something to entice the buyer into purchasing a 7-inch slab of vinyl that only contained two songs. "Don't Let Me Down" by The Beatles was a B-side. The Who's *Odds and Sods* and The Rolling Stones' *Flowers* were composed almost entirely of B-sides. Green Day released a B-side album; Oasis did too. People have been begging Radiohead to do it for ages. And then, some obscure British band called Doves decided to give it a go.

Doves are a simple band. They're composed of three members. They have two full-length albums, and they're the best band you've never heard of. Their 2000 debut, *Lost Souls*, was unfortunately disregarded due to the emergence of Coldplay and the reestablishment Radiohead on the critic's favorites list.

In 2002, Doves released *The Last Broadcast*, which would have been album of the year if the public had actually paid attention to good music. It was also the first album that

Graham Stark graphic

paid homage to Pink Floyd's *Dark Side of the Moon* in a reflective, innovative and revitalizing manner.

Doves secured a spot at 2002's Glastonbury festival and ended up being a highlight of the event despite their afternoon slot. When Doves finished touring for *The Last Broadcast*, they took a short break and put together a B-side album before moving on to their next record full-length album.

Lost Sides can only be called a B-side album because there's proof that these songs existed in their current form before this album. *Lost Sides* is structured like an album. It breathes, it progresses, it takes the sharp yet meditative turns that the previous Doves album took, and the craft and technique of this album exceeds the level of musicianship that some bands could ever hope of achieving.

It's shocking to listen to "Your Shadow Lay Across My Life" and think that the band deemed it not worthy of appearing on one of their full-length albums. Its lyrical interplay makes it one of the best things they've ever done. After a brief spacious intro, the aptly titled "Darker" kicks off the album with a saturated bass line that proves that Doves aren't just an emotional band disguised by pretentiousness.

The only thing that prevents this album from being a "real" album is the inclusion of a few too many psychedelic instrumentals, which will hopefully find their way into film soundtracks because, even without lyrics, Doves songs create an incomparable atmosphere that you will never find in any other band.

Pay attention to the Doves. Their mediocre songs are better than 99 per cent of the music that was released in the past year alone.

by Richard McDevitt

Doves
Where We're Calling From
Heavenly

Right on the heels of their magnificent B-side album *Lost Sides*, Doves' first DVD effort succeeds in giving you a comprehensive overview of their career, splendid live performances and a slightly embarrassing documentary about their early-nineties techno band Sub Sub.

The inclusion of all the Doves music videos is enough to please any fan who has lost hope of ever seeing them aired on MuchMusic again. The videos from *The Last Broadcast* are the highlight, but fans will enjoy the early low-budget videos from *Lost Souls*. The live footage taken from a show at Cornwall's Eden Project shows the band in top form. Rousing versions of "Pounding" and "There Goes The Fear" prove that they can bring the intricacy of their studio work to the stage without having it fall apart. The only unfortunate part is that they didn't include the entire concert. The main documentary shows a very modest side of the band.

They still worry about whether or not people will show up their concerts and are thrilled when they peer out to see an over-capacity crowd filling the venue.

The band is now in the studio, and judging from the strength of their last works, Doves' next album should be nothing short of a masterpiece.

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Rebecca Peric photo

Crossgrain Photographic Society members Kate Seymour and Jason D. Smith proudly display their latest work at the Xchanges Gallery & Studios.

Local photography at its best

by Rebecca Peric

The white square room that lies just beyond the front door of Xchanges Gallery & Studios contains multitudes.

Buildings, faces, cars and forests line the walls of the gallery, which hosts the Crossgrain Photographic Society's annual show.

There are close-ups of people whose eyes pull you in. Or of a quiet day in the forest, a fallen log with moss growing in it. There's no wind, as if the forest is holding its breath.

Another photo shows a bus, framed beside a mirror image of itself. The two seem ready to collide, conveying the energy of everyday city life and the busy streets. Nearby is a skateboarder with his feet off the ground, skateboard floating underneath, a jump frozen in time.

One photographer has coloured various parts in certain photos by hand: a blue shirt here, a yellow hat there. It adds a unique effect in contrast to the black and white photography. Some photos are put into a collage while others are bordered with black tape. Each photographer adds something different to the show.

Crossgrain has resided in Xchanges Gallery & Studios since 1999, an establishment that also features printmaking and sculpture. From outside, the studio looks like a weather-worn shack with peeling paint.

"It's a secret artist underworld," said Jason D. Smith, president and Crossgrain member for three and a half years. Artists compose their work on the three levels of the small building.

The photographers are members of Xchanges as well as Crossgrain, which gives them access to two dark rooms 24 hours a day, along with the chemicals to develop film. Crossgrain gives photographers the chance to have an accessible and inexpensive working space.

"It's not just a cheap place, it's a place that people are encouraged to participate in and help run," said Kate Seymour, treasurer and Crossgrain member for five years. Each member does their part to help make the building better, whether it's making a sign or taking out the garbage. "I consider [it] a privilege," Seymour added.

The photo show, which creates a new universe with each individual picture, gives the public the chance to look at the world through someone else's eyes.

The display at Xchanges Gallery & Studios runs from Jan. 10 to 25, Saturdays and Sundays 1 p.m. to 5 p.m..

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Moses Lapinksy a book bad beyond belief

BY BRIONY SMITH

The Five Books of Moses Lapinksy
Karen X. Tulchinsky
Polestar

I have decided to write a book of fiction. This has everything to do with the fact that I just finished–after a tortuous several months–reading Karen X. Tulchinsky's novel *The Five Books of Moses Lapinsky*, a book so devoid of good writing that even a confirmed prose dunce such as I could write a better book even if I was stoned on Quaaludes and choosing random words out of a dictionary.

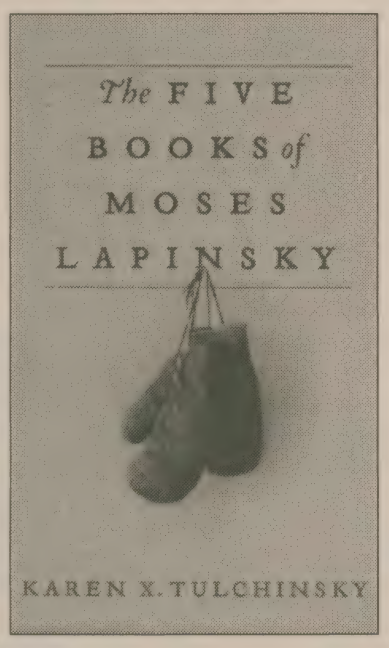
In addition to serving as a wake-up call to my future career as a published fiction writer, this book served as a healthy cautionary tale. The experience of reading this book further dwindled my faith in the validity of the blurbs on the back of a book, as well as the sometimes tenuous bond between interesting subject matter and good writing.

I was tempted to pick this book up because the back of the book heralded it as a "stunning depiction of family dynamics" and "filled with life," both pleasantly confident endorsements that I would enjoy this weighty tome. The subject matter also piqued my interest, as the book centered upon the historical Christie Pits riot that occurred one sweaty evening in Toronto, in the late summer of 1933, the result of a simmering hatred between the Jewish youths and the non-Jewish youths of surrounding neighbourhoods. And since the book comes from a triply marginalized voice–that of a Jewish lesbian–I was eager to delve right into *The Five Books of Moses Lapinsky*.

I was to be sorely disappointed, however, as I began to read this 500-page hardcover behemoth. Mounting evidence suggested that the aforementioned reviews would have been more accurate had they read, "stunningly bad depiction of family dynamics" and "filled with life…and horrendously bad writing!"

For despite the fascinating subject matter that ranges from surviving life in the Great Depression to training as a child boxing prodigy to fighting the battle at Dieppe in World War II, Tulchinsky's writing falls flat and is filled with tired clichés.

Much of the book revolves around the Lapinsky family, consisting of



patriarch Yacov, his wife Sophie and their four sons. The plot stems from the different personalities and lifestyles of the different sons, including responsible Sid, scholarly Lenny, pugnacious Sonny, and Izzy, who is brain-damaged.

The family Lapinsky's experiences range from the boys' childhood during the Depression through to the early fifties, but also stretches both back in time to Yacov's harrowing escape from a pogrom in his native Russia and forward to Moses Lapinsky's writing of a book about his family's history.

The structure of the book is indeed quite masterful, as it slips about in time and concerns a hearty cast of characters. Tulchinsky has skill in launching a novel that is wide in scope, although her talent as a writer does not allow her to create rounded enough characters or good enough exposition to make this book any good.

One of her shortcomings is a penchant to reuse the idea of rage burning in the belly, or other internal metaphors for feelings. Variants of this clichéd metaphor for anger or strong emotion are used all throughout the novel. So constantly is this turn of phrase and its derivatives used, that if you were to open to a random page, there would be a good chance that it'd contain one. This monotonous repetition through the book weakens the writing tenfold each time it is used, and used, and used.

Tulchinsky also utilises other hackneyed phrases like "bundle of nerves" and "heart is breaking." There are spelling mistakes in the book, and the colloquial language is laid awkwardly on the page.

The character development in this book is horrible, as the book never transcends the bare bones of its character sketches. None of the characters act exciting or unpredictable, being unable to break from their cookie-cutter storyline that involves such weary stereotypes as the stubborn father, the saintly mother, the good-hearted eldest son, and the boxer that fights to vent his rage at being rejected by his family.

It saddens me that someone who has won such praise for her previous work and that has found success in the tough world of publishing despite being a marginalized voice has managed to write such a bad book. With all the historical research and effort put into churning out this lengthy novel, combined with Tulchinsky's skill at structure, it is all too sad that the resulting book is so mediocre.

Laden with predictable characters and clichéd poor writing, *The Five Books of Moses Lapinsky* is best left to those who wish to study what not to do when composing a work of fiction.

Return of prodigal sons Hot Hot Heat

BY MEGHAN DRYSDALE

"You just missed, like, 90 fans," says Paul Hawley, the tall blonde drummer of Victoria's own Hot Hot Heat, stepping into the upstairs room of Sugar's nightclub reserved for bands. The space is littered with clothing, papers, and what appears to be an old foosball table filled with bottles of Heineken and water.

"Really? Outside?" asks Steve Bays, the band's vocalist, as he looks up, sounding surprised.

"Well, no, 90's an outrageous number. It was more like 20," Hawley concedes.

Both are quiet for a moment. It's an experience they aren't used to in this city. "That doesn't happen in Victoria. We can walk around," says Bays. "In places like L.A. it's really hard, we barely leave our hotel room."

The band–which includes guitarist, Dante DeCaro, and bassist, Dustin Hawthorne–played two sold-out shows at Sugar when they were in town on a stop on their most recent tour.

Hot Hot Heat has been touring the world relentlessly for the last two years. *Exclaim!* magazine heralded the band as "Victoria's Secret" a year and a half ago. Their album for Sub Pop, *Make Up the Breakdown*, was bought out by Warner's Sire label and has been released globally. Since then, they have made appearances on David Letterman and Conan O'Brien, and have been featured in countless publications, from *Vanity Fair* to *Spin*.

Despite performing in front of thousands of people and gracing major magazine covers, the band still hasn't accepted their celebrity status.

"I still don't think of us as a really big band, but like a hardworking indie band still," says Bays. "For the most part we feel exactly the same as we did a year ago."

"I don't know why I feel nervous," he says about playing in their hometown, after telling about a show they recently played in L.A., with 55,000 people in the audience. They were billed third, behind headliners Duran Duran and the Cure, but over bands like the Psychedelic Furs and Echo and the Bunnymen. "I'll get nervous once in a blue moon, like tonight."

Maybe it's playing in a town that's seen them develop since the days before they had guitar and their current vocalist. The band recently added this earlier demo to the merchandise page of their website, from before DeCaro joined and Bays moved to vocals and keyboard.

"I think we had to make a real point of declaring we were basically a new band. People often refer to *Make Up the Breakdown* as our first release all the time. I think it's important to let people know that we came from a scene, that it wasn't just some major label behind us."

The band does have a major label behind them now though: they signed a five-album contract with Reprise Music, a division of Warner. The band's already written a quarter of their next album, and they plan to go into a studio in Shawnigan in January to write full-time. "It's hard to write on the road. You don't really have the time. Most of our writing's done here," says Bays. They will then record their own demos.

The band still maintains a hundred per cent creative control, despite moving to the larger label. "They [the label] feel like until it stops working just do what you're doing."

PROVIDED PHOTO

From left: drummer Paul Hawley, bassist Dustin Hawthorne, guitarist Dante Decaro and singer Steve Bays.

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Coping with the pain of it all

The strain of competition is leaving many athletes looking for options to deal with the pain

BY JENNY HICKS

NIC HUME PHOTO

Ibuprofen and other over-the-counter pain killers are the remedy of choice for the pains of many UVic athletes

University of Victoria runner Glenn Saqui was prepared for the 2003 Canadian Track and Field championship. He was in the best shape of his life and felt like he was ready to compete for the national title. But a week before to the race, Saqui stepped on a root, hurt his ankle and missed the championship.

"It was the worst feeling in my life," said Saqui. "As soon as I went down, I knew it was over."

Saqui knows pain. He knows about the constant nagging pain every time he puts on his running shoes, and he knows about the kind of pain that can take him away from his sport.

"With the day-to-day pain, you learn to block it out," he said. "It hurts when you walk, when you move around and when you run. But most people push it to the back of their mind."

There are two kinds of pain: harmful and harmless. In some sports, athletes try to reach a level of pain, called training pain, that releases endorphins and makes them feel like they've put in a good workout.

But when an athlete's performance is affected by the pain he or she feels, they sometimes seek ways to deal with it for the sake of their sport. This can include preventative measures like massages and physiotherapy. For some athletes, it can mean taking an excessive amount of over-the-counter painkillers, like ibuprofen.

One UVic athlete, who asked to remain anonymous, said that athletes who don't use banned substances will sometimes use other drugs to deal with pain. He said that sometimes before a competition athletes will take more than the recommended dosage of non-prescription drugs so they can compete.

"If you have an overwork injury… there are things you can do, such as take ibuprofen, to get through the pain," he said.

According to UVic swim coach and medical doctor Peter Vizsolyi, the problem is in determining what the recommended dosage actually is. On a bottle of ibuprofen the dosage is set at one to two tablets three to four times daily, but "in reality, the therapeutic dosage, if prescribed, is 12 tablets," said Vizsolyi.

But some athletes are taking up to 16.

"We don't take what we aren't allowed to, but we overdose on the things we are allowed to take," said the same athlete. "It happens a fair amount, but no one talks about it."

James Keogh is the Interim Coordinator of Athletics at UVic. As an athlete himself, he wasn't surprised to hear about the overuse of painkillers. In fact, he's done it himself.

"[After an injury] the doctor said you have two choices, to take [prescription] anti-inflammatories or a crapload of ibuprofen," said Keogh.

Like many athletes, Keogh opted for the ibuprofen.

Vizsolyi said that when athletes are using ibuprofen, they are mostly self-medicating and not consulting a doctor, something he's not happy with. "I'd like to see them under some supervision," he said.

Unlike painkillers, which attack pain, ibuprofen is an anti-inflammatory meant to bring down swelling. But Vizsolyi said that because ibuprofen is a generic drug, the maker often lowers the dose from what a doctor would prescribe. This leads Vizsolyi to believe that "you need to take a lot of ibuprofen to get a true anti-inflammatory dose."

Vizsolyi has seen athletes who have been on anti-inflammatory drugs fairly chronically and said, "There is some debate about whether they do much good."

As for the side effects of taking ibuprofen, Vizsolyi said that, "every drug, even ones you buy at the drug store, has side effects." Stomach problems are the most common, and there is a risk of developing an ulcer. The solution, according to Vizsolyi, is to monitor use of the drug. "You have to make sure they're not getting into trouble," said Vizsolyi.

Injuries and pain are a reality for elite athletes. Competitors will continue to push their bodies to the limit and, because everyone's body is built differently, high levels of training will affect each athlete individually. Inevitably some will choose drugs, prescription or not, to deal with the pain.

"People have a sense of what their limits are," said Vizsolyi. "They manage their pain and injuries in relation to their goals."

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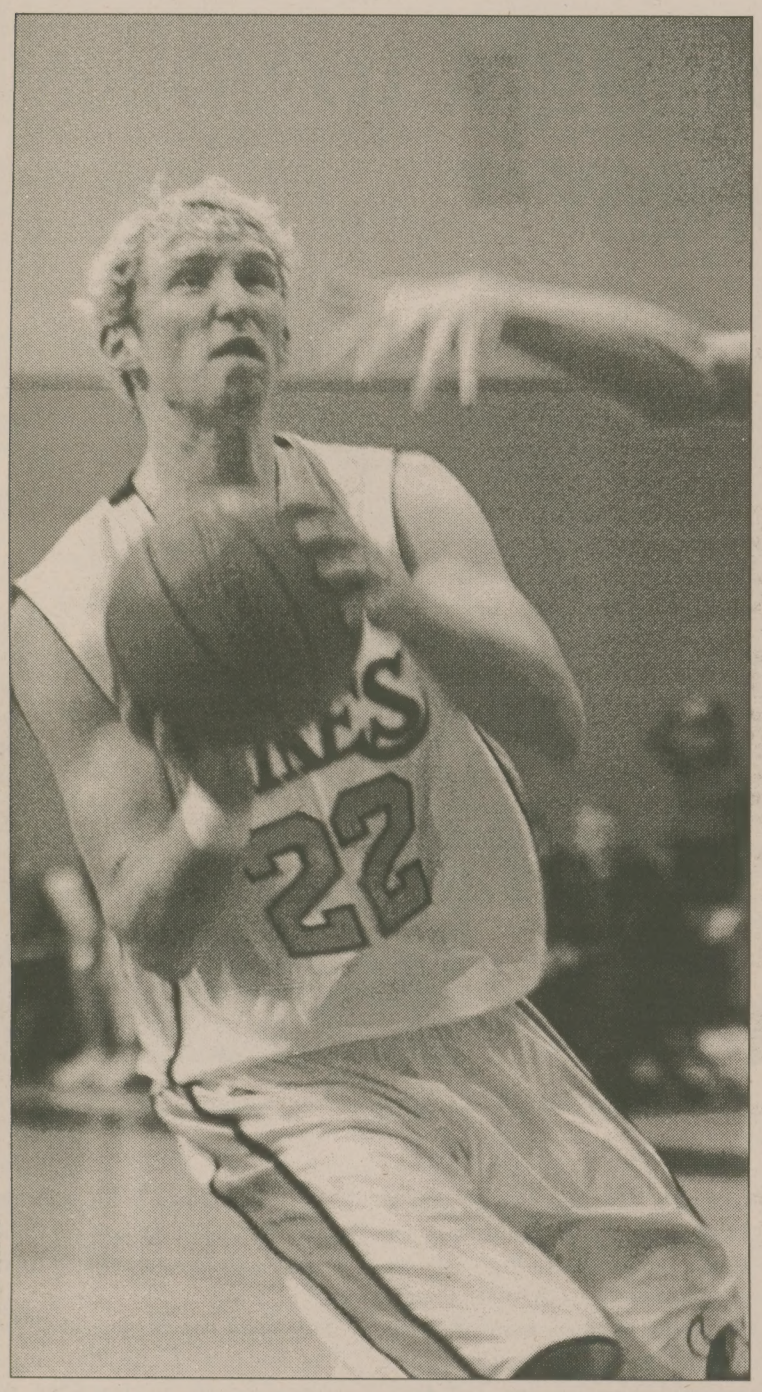

Nic Hume photo

Vikes guard Eric Rushton takes a shot against the SFU Clan on Friday night in a completely un-quarantined MacKinnon gym. The Vikes lost the game 98–64, playing without manager Dave Morrison, who remained in a Florida hospital with a meningitis-related bacteria.

Vikes mostly meningitis-free

by Richard Warnica

Reports that the UVic men's basketball team was quarantined for meningitis at the U.S. border over the holidays were wildly exaggerated, according to Vikes public relations coordinator Pete Lewis.

It was reported in the local media last week that the team, in Florida playing a mid-season tournament, was being quarantined in Seattle after one of their members was diagnosed with the bacterial infection.

Lewis said he was shocked when the New VI contacted him for comment because no one on the team, which always travels with a cellular telephone, had contacted him about the delay. As it turns out, the team wasn't in quarantine at all and was in fact on a bus back to Victoria at the time.

According to Lewis, what actually happened was the team manager, 19-year-old UVic student Dave Morrison, was admitted to hospital in Fort Lauderdale Florida on January third with neisseria meningitidis, an infection related to bacterial meningitis. The rest of the team finished the tournament and returned home as scheduled.

The *Times Colonist* reported on Sunday, Jan. 11 that Morrison was struck with nausea, vomiting and soreness on Friday Jan. 2 before being taken to Holy Cross hospital the next day with chest pain and a rash. Upon admission he was placed on a 10-day course of antibiotics, to which he has responded well.

As a precaution Morrison's teammates and immediate family were treated with a less intensive course of drugs. According to Lewis, the team has now been certified disease-free and played this weekend against SFU.

Although Morrison has been cleared to return to Canada to complete his treatment, as of Sunday a private bed in a Victoria hospital had yet to be found, leaving the manager stuck in Florida.

Lewis suggested that the story was overblown because of the recent death of local elementary teacher Joy Paquin, who was admitted to Victoria General hospital on Jan. 3 with the same infection as Morrison and died later that night. When news of another local infection, this time Morrison's, hit Victoria, fears of an outbreak caused an overreaction.

However, Dr. Pam Kibsey of the Vancouver Island Health Authority told the *Times Colonist* that the cases were unlikely to be related and cases of meningitis were well within normal limits for the year.

Sports briefs

Basketball

Men split weekend series with SFU

Coming off a strong performance at the Guy Vetrie Memorial tournament and a meningitis scare in Florida over the holidays, the men's basketball team returned to Mackinnon gymnasium last weekend against the SFU Clan.

On Friday night the Vikes were lambasted 98–64 by a strong Clan team led by CIS leading scorer Pasha Bains. Bains dropped 25 points to go with five assists and three rebounds in the win.

The Vikes top scorer was forward Nate Ashmead who picked up eight rebounds to complement his 15 points. Ashmead was a lone bright light for the Vikes as captain and starting guard Reagan Daly was transparent, dropping an invisible 2 points in 27 minutes of floor time.

The loss must have lit a spark under Daly because he came back the next night to tear the Clan up for 30 points in a 105–76 victory. The Vikes changed tactics for the second game, moving to a full court press defense that stifled the high-scoring Clan.

Power forward Brian Taylor made his season debut for the Vikes and was an effective addition on the inside, picking up three rebounds in limited minutes.

The win moved the Vikes to 7–3 on the season. Next action is this weekend in Calgary where they take on the fourth-ranked Dinos.

Women sweep Clan

UVic's third-ranked women's basketball team turfed the sixth-ranked SFU Clan on the weekend, beating them on consecutive nights to improve their record to 7–3.

On Friday night the Vikes were led by six-foot forward Jania Mynot's 19 points in a 61–51 win. Fourth-year guard Jody Potts had 10 points, six rebounds, five assists, three steals and 1 block for the Vikes.

On Saturday, after Mynot got in early foul trouble, rookie forward Pam Reinke stepped up with 12 points and six rebounds to lead the Vikes to a 64–55 overtime win. After the score was tied at 51 after 40 minutes, the Vikes totally dominated the overtime period, outscoring their opponents 13–4.

The Vikes play next weekend away at the University of Calgary.

Field Hockey

UBC wimps out…again

The UBC indoor tournament scheduled for this weekend has been cancelled.

No word on whether the traditionally cowardly Thunderbirds cancelled the event out of fear, or if other factors were involved. The tournament was to have been the first opportunity for the Vikes to avenge their loss to UBC in the national championship game in November. The loss was particularly hard to take as the rain-soaked pitch made offense impossible. The eventual zero–zero tie was decided on strokes (shoot-out).

The Vikes get their chance against UBC next weekend at home, in the UVic indoor tournament. The tournament will be the first chance for Vikes fans to see their team in action against other universities all season. Check www.uvic.ca/vikes for more information.

Rugby

World Cup stars return against Pacific Pride

Two members of Canada' Rugby World Cup squad will be returning to action this Friday for the Vikes. Forward Colin Yukes and scrum-half Ed Fairhurst, both of whom played for Canada in the world championship tournament held in Australia late last year, will appear in Vikes blue and yellow for the first time this season against Pacific Pride at Centennial Stadium on Friday night at 7 p.m.

The reigning B.C. champion Vikes have floundered somewhat without the two, going 4–4 in the first half of the season.

Extreme weather conditions would move the game to Saturday at Wallace field.

–Richard Warnica

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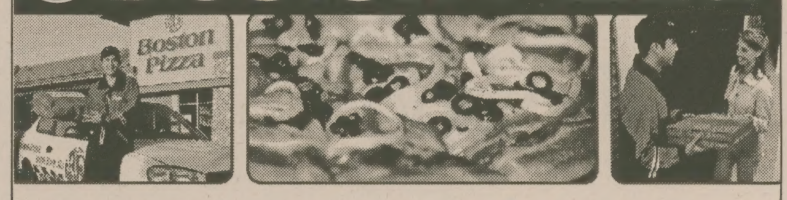

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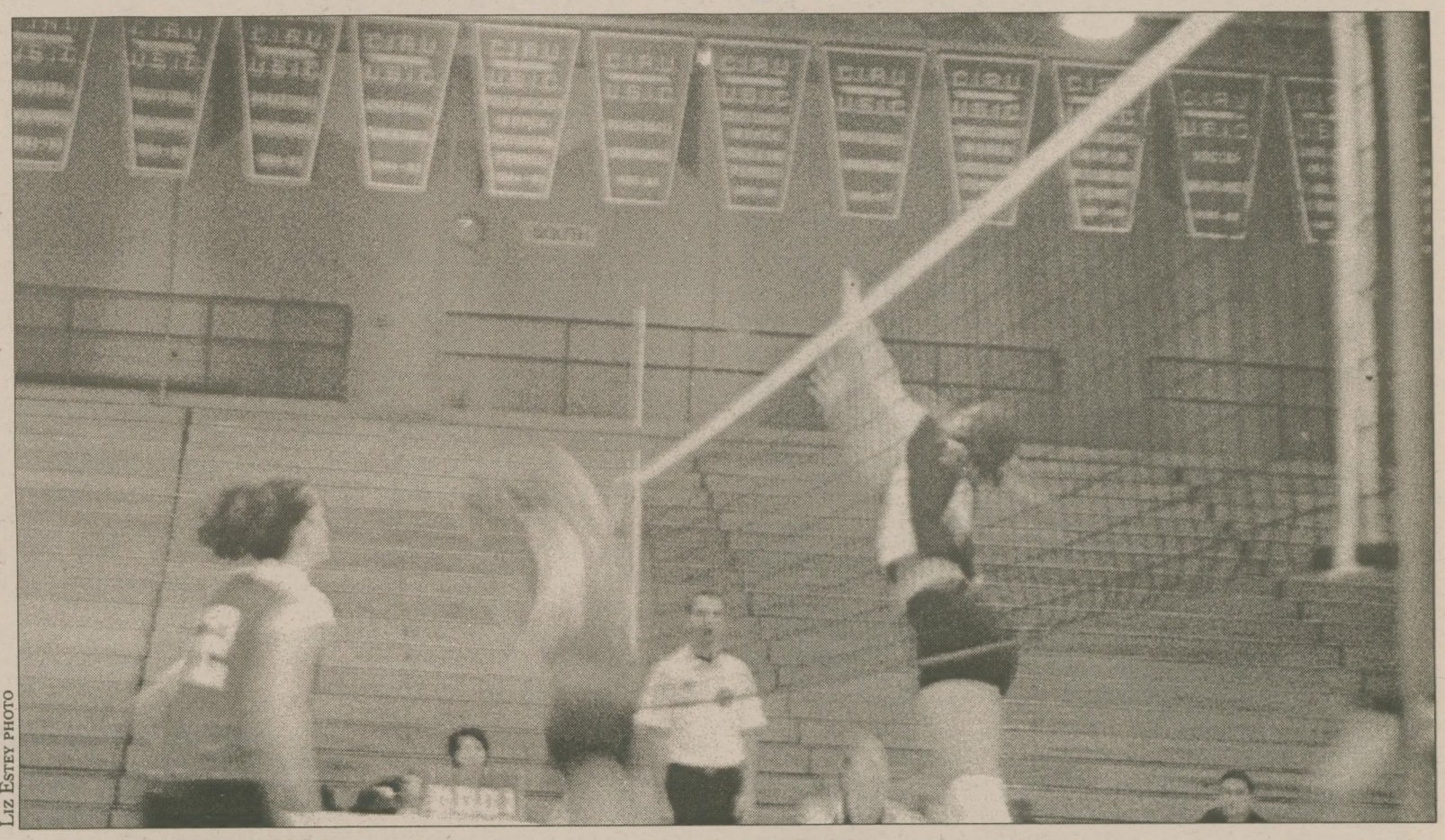
Vikes women fight for their right to volley

Women's volleyball team continues to serve up tasty nuggets despite losing varsity status

BY JENNY HICKS



LIZ ESTEY PHOTO

The speed of the women's volleyball team, left, wasn't enough against Nanaimo's Malaspina college. The Vikes lost the exhibition game 3–1.

They wear red uniforms, not blue. They're a club, not a varsity team. And they play colleges, not other universities.

But according to Coach Kiet Nguyen, UVic's women's volleyball team has an exciting future.

"They have major talent and a great attitude," says Nguyen.

Because they are not a tier one varsity team, they don't have a regular game schedule. Instead, they set up games against other colleges outside of the regular season.

As a result, they don't play as often as they would like.

Since the 2001–2002 season, the team has been a member of the America-based National Association of Inter-collegiate Athletics (NAIA). Because the team is an independent and not a set member of one of the NAIA's regional groups, they have to arrange all their own games with teams outside of their regular schedule.

Coach Nguyen called the NAIA membership a "token" or "honorary membership," and not something teams in established leagues take very seriously.

"We play in a few tournaments in the first half of the season," says Nguyen. "But our goal each year is to make [NAIA] regionals."

For the team to do that, they would have to win at least 50 per cent of their NAIA games, a goal that has so far eluded them.

But Nguyen is optimistic for the future.

"They're a very young team," says Nguyen, but adds "competitively, in a few years, they'll be as strong as they've ever been." He said if the current roster returns, a regional berth next season is very possible.

As the first coach in a long time to stay around longer than one season, Nguyen has seen a lot of improvement from his young team. But they have a long way to go in order for the university to consider giving them back their varsity status.

According to the Coordinator of Athletics for UVic, James Keogh, it would take "to be blunt, a lot of money" to bring the Vikes back to tier one, varsity status.

The team lost its status when in January of 1998 the athletics department's budget forced them to axe one tier-one varsity-level sport from the program. Wayne MacDonald, the head of athletics at the time, told *the Martlet* in 1999 that "volleyball just happened to be at the bottom of the list" of a range of impartial criteria considered by the department.

With the NAIA season behind them, the Vikes will concentrate this semester on picking up games against local colleges and clubs. On Sunday afternoon they took to the court at MacKinnon gym against the reigning British Columbia College Athletic Association (BCCAA) champion Malaspina Mariners from Nanaimo. The Vikes were no match for the powerful Mariners and lost three games to one.

UVic had the first serve, which was quickly returned with a powerful spike over the net, setting the tone of play for the rest of the game. The Vikes consistently missed easy plays and provided few chances for rallying between the two teams. They lost three games in succession before a strong showing in the fourth rescued some pride.

The Vikes stayed in the game, led by the strong dives and aggressive plays of defensive specialist (or libero) Jeannie Waldern.

Supported by newcomers Dana Allen and Annie Gallie, the team had a strong showing and was able to pull it together, narrowly beating Malaspina.

In the end, only one question remained. Why the red jerseys while other Vikes wear blue and yellow?

"I wanted to get taken notice of," says Nguyen. "I wanted to stand out from the rest of the school."

With files from Richard Warnica

---

on the spot

Today's Question:
What famous person do people say you look like?

BY GRAHAM "KRYTEN" STARK

and

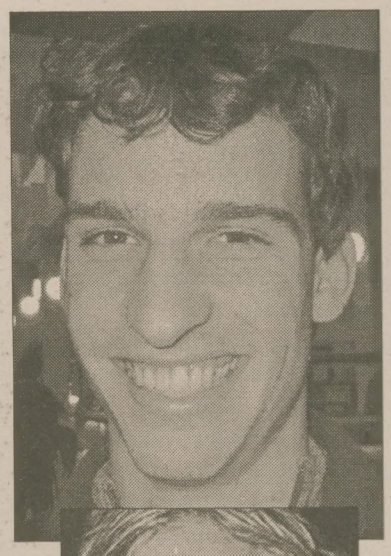
MEGAN "BJÖRK" STEWART.

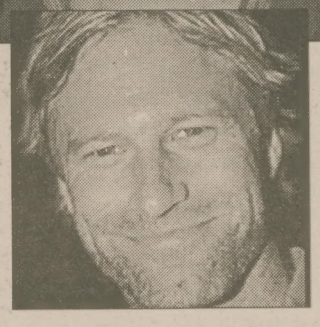
Jaime Church

JC: I'd have to say, Jodie Foster. I get that a lot.

Alisa Stanton

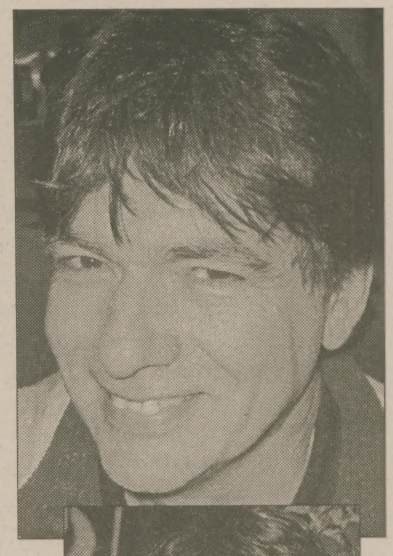
AS: I've had a couple people say Penelope Cruz.

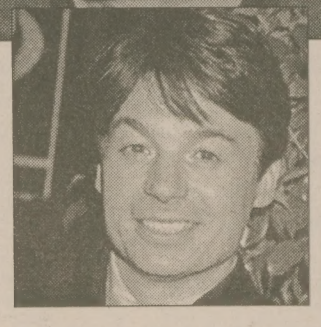




Jamie Straehan

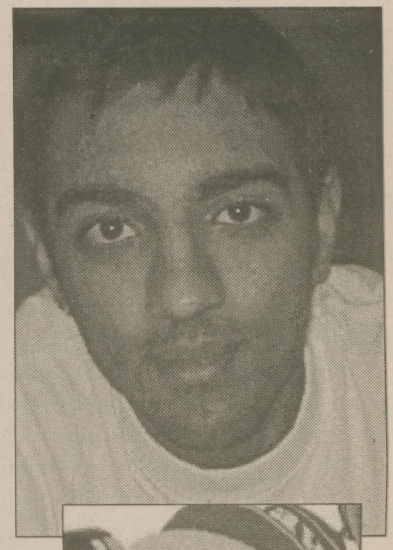
JS: I know my sisiter's mentioned a few… maybe Aaron Eckart?





Bill Johnston

BJ: They tell me I look like Mike Myers.



Talal Al-lamki

MS: You look like Andre 3000!
TA: Really? Okay, that's my answer.

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Everyone is welcome to join us on January 21, from 12 – 1 p.m. in the MacLaurin Bldg., Room D111. Complementry refreshments (coffee, tea and treats) will be available and some great door prizes.
Can't make this event? Check out our WISE website for upcoming meetings and events (www.engr.uvic.ca/~WISE) or contact us at: wise@engr.uvic.ca. We are also looking for new, enthusiastic members to join our executive. It looks great on a résumé!

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Social Action Research for Social Justice Brown Bag lunch series, sponsored by the Faculty of Education and Leadership Studies, will be launched on Wednesday January 21st, 2004 at 4:30 – 6 p.m. in the Faculty/Graduate Student Lounge, room A334, in the MacLaurin Building. At each session there will be someone presenting their research which addresses social action and justice followed by a time for questions and dialogue. The Brown Bag lunches will be every second Monday, with the presentation between 12:30 – 1:30 in MacLauren room D111. For more info contact Lisa Mortimore at lisamort@uvic.ca.

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BLUEGRASS JAM, Tuesdays at the Orange Hall, 1620 Fernwood, 7:30 p.m. Players of all levels welcome. Players $2, listeners free. Contact: Larry Lawrence Statland 472-6483.

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Help wanted

SUMMER CAMP COUNSELORS ON CAMPUS FOR PREMIER CAMPS IN MASSACHUSETTS
Positions available for talented, energetic, and fun loving students as counselors in all team sports including Roller Hockey and Lacrosse, all individual sports such as Tennis & Golf, Waterfront and Pool activities, and specialty activities, including art, dance, theatre, gymnastics, newpaper, rocketry & radio. GREAT SALARIES, room, board, travel and US summer work visa. June 17th - August 13th.
For more information and to apply:
MAK-KEE-NAC www.campmkn.com
(Boys): 1-800-753-9118
DANBEE www.danbee.com
(Girls): 1-800-392-3752
Interviewer will be on campus Monday March 1st – 10am to 4pm in the Student Union Building (SUB) – Michele Pujol Room.

TEACH ENGLISH Overseas: Jobs $$ Guaranteed – Great Pay. TESOL Certified in 5 days in-class (monthly classes), on-line or by correspondence. **FREE** Information Seminar, every Monday @ 7 p.m. Bedford Regency, 1140 Government St. **FREE** Infopack: **1-888-270-2941** or **globaltesol.com**

Volunteers wanted to act as conversation partners and activity leaders for international students. If interested, please send résumé or personal statement to cathy@cdncollege.bc.ca or fax 383-2292.

Accommodations

PINEWOOD ESTATES TOWNHOUSES
X-tra large 3BR townhouses. Now & February 1st, 2004 3 levels incl. office + rec room. 5 appls. Walk to UVic. $1390
Call Barb @ 812-4402.

Announcements

Activist Video Night "Children of the Fire" Takes you into the lives of Palestinian children of Nablus, with its Israeli occupation, curfews, arrests and deaths. Kids try to go to school, do home work and play games of "freedom fighters vs. soldiers." Mid East expert UVic prof. Laurie King Irani will speak about the current situation in Palestine and answer questions. Friday 7 p.m., Jan. 16, Camosun College, Fisher Building, room 100, FREE, info – 595-3991.

JOIN A RESEARCH STUDY on **young women's identity development for women who have experienced maternal loss.** Women volunteers are needed to participate in a research study to explore the experience of self-discovery in young women who have experienced the loss of their mother. This research is being conducted as part of the researcher's master's thesis at the University of Victoria. As a participant you will be requested to complete 2 interviews about your experience of maternal loss and self-discovery. Your confidentiality will be strictly protected.
Women are needed for this study who:
Would like to share their story in a study that that facilitate greater understanding of women who have lost their mothers;
Are between 20 and 26 years of age;
Were raised in intact families;
Experienced the death of their mother due to accident or illness (not suicide) between the ages of 11 and 18.
If interested, please call Lara at 385-5676.

GOT SOME EXTRA TIME to help someone kick start an active lifestyle for the New Year? At Recreation Integration Victoria (RIV) we facilitate active lifestyles for people with disabilities. Here's your chance to get active and spend time with someone who enjoys the same activities as you do. RIV is looking for volunteers to provide one-to-one assistance for people with disabilities who would like to participate in a variety of recreational activities. To get involve or for more information, please call Dustin: 477-6314

WILDERNESS SCAVENGER HUNT
Come join us to search for clues and win fabulous prizes! Friday January 16, 2004 12:30 p.m. UVic fountain (rain or shine) for information e-mail uvicwilderness@yahoo.ca.

Centre for Studies in Religion and Society:
Graduate Student Fellowship Opportunities
The Ian H. Stewart Graduate Student Fellowship and the Vandekerkhove Family Trust Graduate Student Fellowships. To apply for either fellowship applications should be submitted to the Centre for Studies in Religion and Society by February 1, 2004. For details please visit web.uvic.ca/csrs/ or call 721-6695.

Calling all groovesters!
Groovefest is an annual fundraiser that deconstructs valentine's day and mainstream beauty standards by celebrating sexuality, diversity and resistance. It's an anti-fashion show, an outlaw talent show, and a radical variety show. Groovefest needs a diverse group of volunteers, performers and models. In particular, we're looking for people of colour, aboriginal people, people of size, transgendered people, people with disabilities and queer people who want to get involved. If you're interested, please contact Rubina or Danielle at the women's centre (sub b107). Call 721-8353 or e-mail groovefest@riseup.net Get aboard the good ship groove!

Guitarist seeks singer for folk/rock duet. Contact Marc @ 592-6244.

For sale

FREE COMPUTER: Stop waiting in line at the computer lab – start surfing the web, type essays at home with this '95 Pentium. You pick up. Call 385-2120.

For trade

I have an X-large, 2003, blue Bonfire snowboard jacket and an X-large, 2003 Bonfire hoodie. The jacket has some small tears on the left arm and a small detachment of the hood. The hoodie is synthetic. I will trade for a reasonable good street-style jacket and a cotton hoodie. e-mail: jrgowans@uvic.ca.

For hire

ROOF INSPECTIONS
Repairs re-roof/demoss
Gutter inspection repair/replace
380-5685

NEED HELP WITH SCHOOL? Private Tutoring, Thesis Editing, Excellent Tutors, Reasonable Rates
ESL is our specialty.
Visit www.smarttutorreferrals.com
or call 995-2632

Hey you!

Sure I'm a f***-up. But it's all the fault of my evil, Satan worshipping, materialistic parents. And anyhow, I promise to be good. – Pariah Jordan

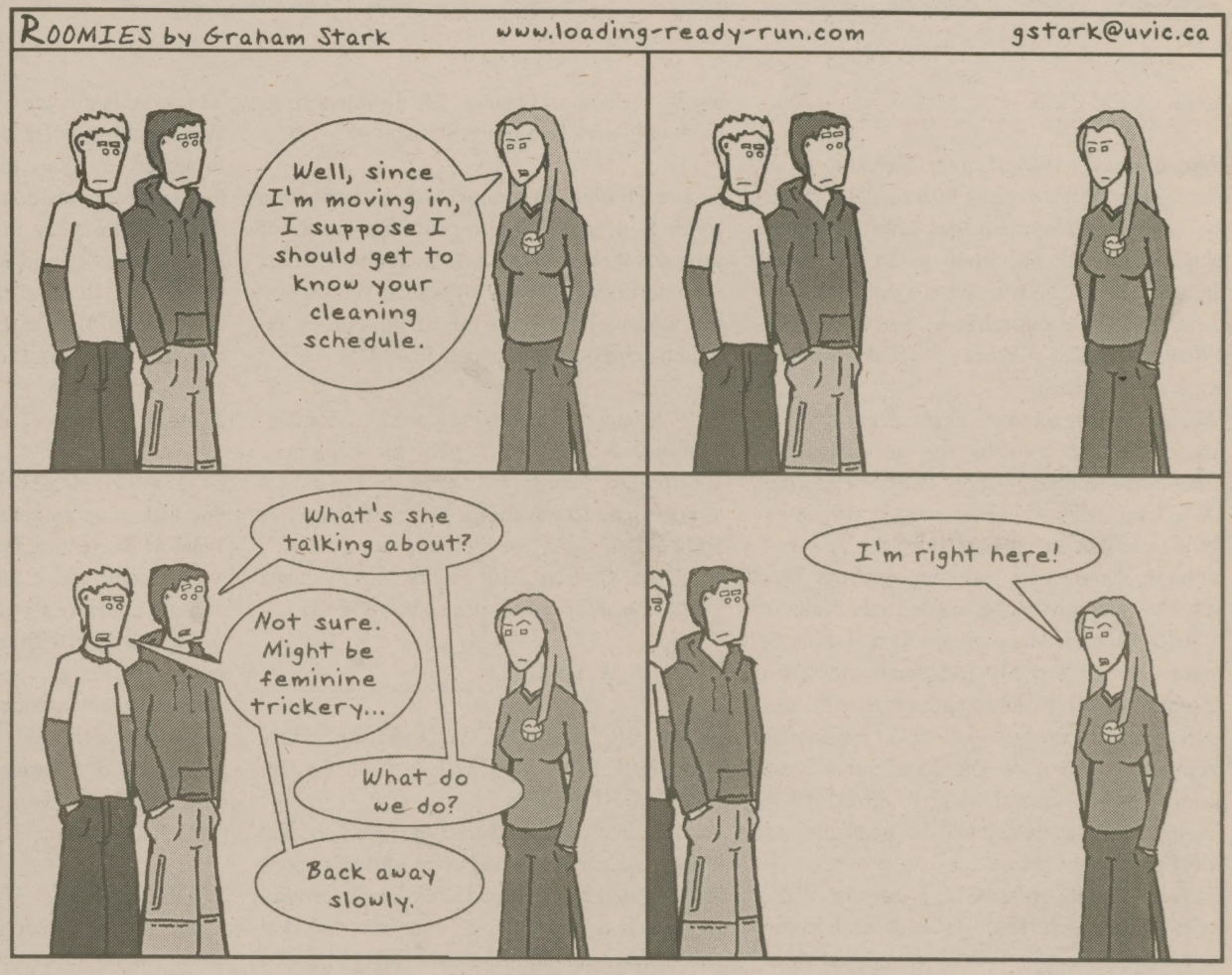
Come and celebrate people powered transportation. Critical Mass Victoria. Friday, January 30, 5 p.m. Centennial Square. Bicycles, rollerblades, skateboards welcome. More info 418-8867.

Billboard Rates:

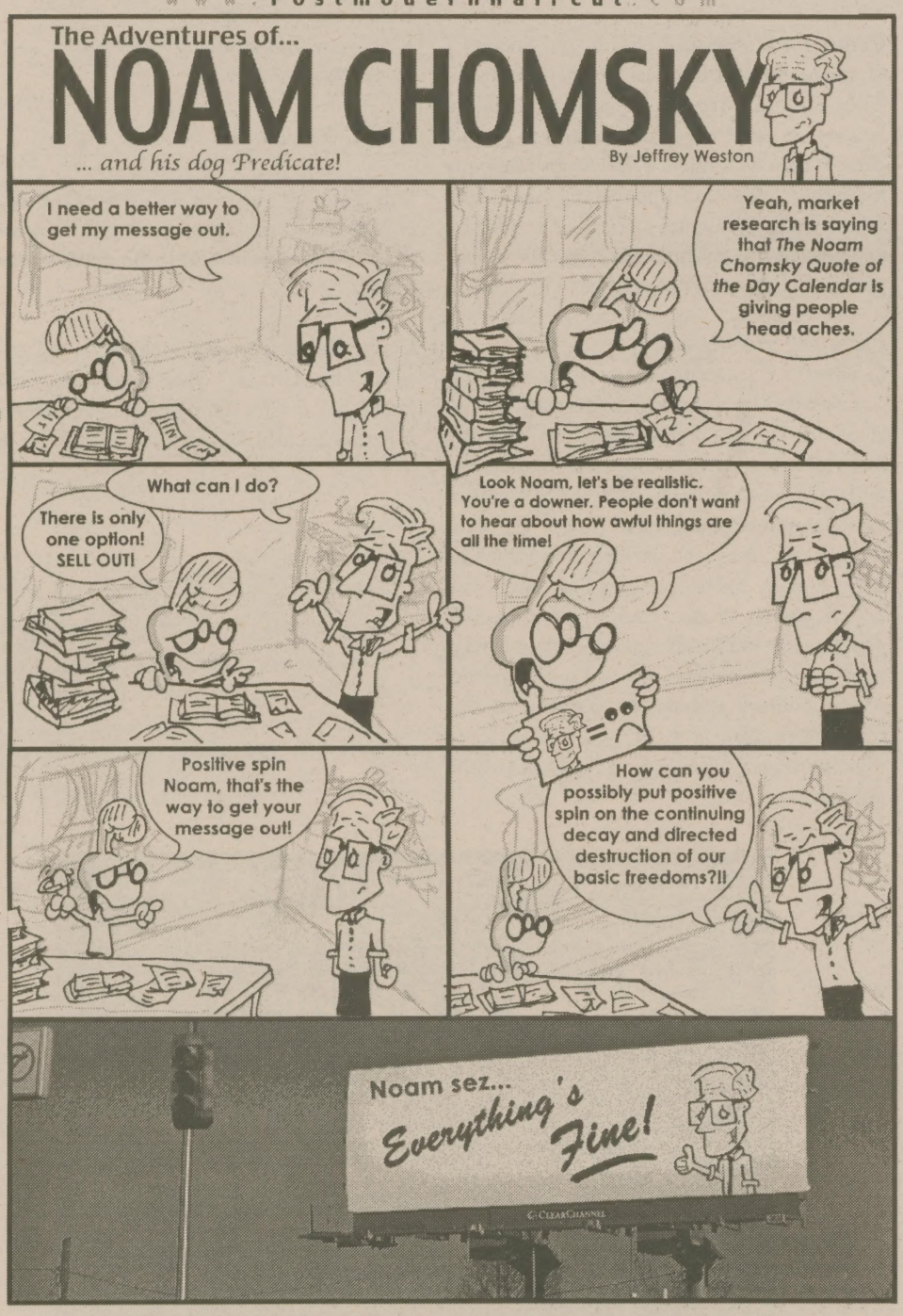
Students and Clubs – $2/issue
Non-Students – $2/line
Businesses – $5.50/line for first 3 lines
+ $2/extra line
hey you! – free

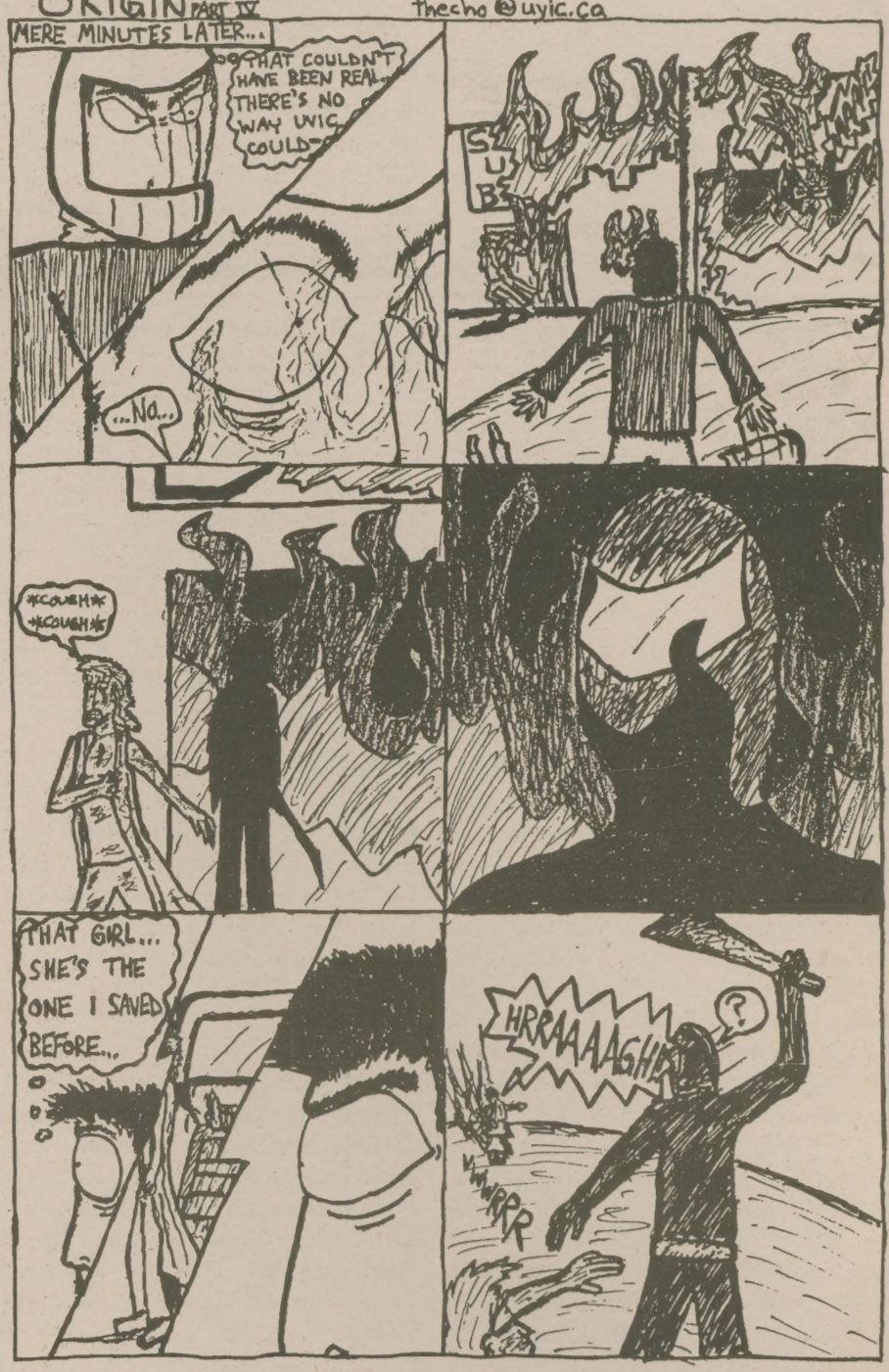
SAM & FUZZY
©2004 BY SAM LOGAN.
HEY KIDS! TIME FOR ANOTHER EDITION OF:
HEAVY-HANDED POLITICAL METAPHOR COMICS
HEY! WHERE'S MY OLD COFFEE MAKER?
I REPLACED IT WITH THIS NEW ONE. IT HAS MORE FEATURES AND THEREFORE MAKES BETTER COFFEE.
BUT... I LIKED MY OLD COFFEE MAKER! WHO ARE YOU TO TELL ME HOW I CAN AND CAN'T MAKE MY OWN COFFEE?
I'M COMMUNISM!

NEW COMICS EVERY MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY AT: WWW.SAMANDFUZZY.COM


ROOMIES by Graham Stark
www.loading-ready-run.com
gstark@uvic.ca
Well, since I'm moving in, I suppose I should get to know your cleaning schedule.
What's she talking about?
Not sure. Might be feminine trickery...
What do we do?
Back away slowly.
I'm right here!

www.PostmodernHaircut.com


The Adventures of...
NOAM CHOMSKY
... and his dog Predicate!
By Jeffrey Weston
I need a better way to get my message out.
Yeah, market research is saying that The Noam Chomsky Quote of the Day Calendar is giving people head aches.
What can I do?
There is only one option! SELL OUT!
Look Noam, let's be realistic. You're a downer. People don't want to hear about how awful things are all the time!
Positive spin Noam, that's the way to get your message out!
How can you possibly put positive spin on the continuing decay and directed destruction of our basic freedoms?!!
Noam sez...
Everything's Fine!



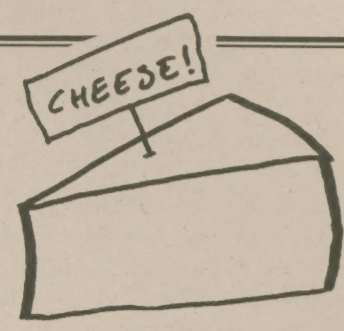
REMEMBER

when you submitted comics to the Martlet?

THOSE WERE GOOD TIMES.

Bring the good times back.

sub b011
photo@martlet.ca



(submit comics to the Martlet;
I wasn't sure if I was clear earlier)